

CASH, QUESTIONS, GRUDGES AND GREER
Letters from Mohamed Al Fayed and Alastair Campbell
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Twenty injured as security cordon is breached

Car bombs blast Army Ulster HQ

By NICHOLAS WATT, MICHAEL EVANS AND RICHARD DUCE

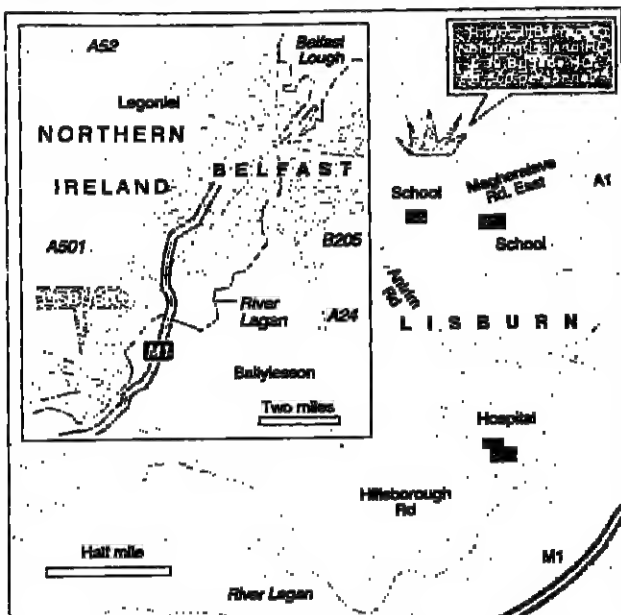
REPUBLICAN terrorists penetrated the most secure area in Northern Ireland yesterday to explode two car bombs in the Army's headquarters at Lisburn, Co Antrim. Up to twenty people were injured by the explosions which came within ten minutes of each other: the Army said the second was aimed at casualties from the first as they were moved to the base's medical centre.

Six men and three women were admitted to hospital with leg, chest and head injuries. One of them in a critical condition. An eight-year-old girl was also among the victims, although she was not seriously hurt and was allowed home after treatment at the town's Lagan Valley Hospital. Two others were transferred to the specialist head injuries unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast.

The attack, the first on an Army target in Northern Ireland since the IRA ended its 18-month ceasefire in February, added to fears that loyalist paramilitaries would resume their campaign of violence. The bombs went off as loyalists in the Maze prison were meeting to decide whether to keep faith with the faltering peace process.

The Ulster Defence Association and the Ulster Freedom Fighters inside the jail have already withdrawn their backing and the Ulster Volunteer Force seemed likely to do the same.

There was no warning before the blasts at 4.40 and 4.50pm, although the attack bore the hallmarks of the IRA. The Army said that the first bomb went off in a car



park at the Thiepval Barracks and the second exploded outside the medical centre, which was extensively damaged. The blast also damaged a children's nursery as well as the garrison church and the NAAFI family shop. The car park is several hundred yards into the camp from the main entrance where all vehicles are supposed to be thoroughly checked. The base is protected by armed soldiers and fortifications, and even military Land Rovers as well as all civilian vehicles should be stopped and searched.

The security breach, which is to be investigated by the Army's most senior officer in Northern Ireland, was particularly alarming because intelligence sources had been warning for some time that the IRA might launch an

attack in the province and security was supposed to have been tightened. Last night Army patrols throughout the province were stepped up and all roads around the barracks were closed. Hundreds of officers held people back from the entrances as relatives gathered to seek news of casualties.

The two bombs, which produced huge clouds of smoke, were believed to have contained between 250 and 500lbs of explosive and the blasts could be heard from miles away. A neurological hospital close to the barracks was badly damaged, although none of the patients there was hurt, and the windows of other buildings were blown out.

The Rev Brian Gibson, who lives in the road next to the barracks, said: "I was sitting

in my study when it went off. I could see shrapnel all over the playing field where some girls were playing hockey. When the second bomb went off, two windows in my house broke with the force of the explosion. There was no screaming, just an awful silence."

Alastair Finlay, 16, was one of 80 children on the playing field when the first bomb went off. He said: "I saw bits of metal and what looked like bits of a car. Then there was all this black smoke. When the second explosion went off we were all in the changing rooms and some of the windows broke."

Last night as ministers speculated that the attack had been timed to coincide with the launch of the Conservative Party conference today, John Major described the double bombing as unspeakable, barbaric and wicked beyond belief. He said: "The presumption is that it (the second bomb) was there either to seek to catch the doctors and nurses trying to help those injured or to catch those injured coming back from the car park to the medical centre. That is the only explanation. The nature of that activity speaks for itself. It was wicked beyond belief to have done that."

Mr Major said it was not known who carried out the bombing or whether it was the work of a republican splinter group. "If it was the Provisional IRA then clearly it is a very serious development."

The Prime Minister insisted that the bomb should not derail the peace process, and the Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble urged loyalist paramilitaries not to be provoked into action. But Gary McKinnel of the Ulster Democratic Party — the political wing of the UDA and UFF — said: "This could have grave implications for the peace process. This would be the first attack on a military establishment by republicans since the IRA ceasefire. Loyalists will be looking at this very closely — it signifies republicans are not intent on finding a democratic settlement."

Security breach, page 2



Barefoot Cadimha who was taken 20 miles from her family's Florida hotel

Abducted girl, 4, found safe

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

POLICE in Florida last night called off a big search for a four-year-old Belfast girl who was abducted from a hotel balcony when she was found safe 20 miles away.

Cadimha McEvoy, wearing a blue and white polka-dot dress, had last been seen at 6pm on Sunday evening playing alone at the Orlando hotel. She was barefoot — fuelling fears that she might have been kidnapped.

Her parents, who thought she was with her grandparents, alerted hotel security staff 30 minutes later after conducting an initial search. After 90 minutes they called the police and a full hunt began 40 minutes later.

Police, accompanied by other branches of the emergency services and dogs, yesterday searched areas near the suburban Quality Inn where the McEvoy's were staying. The family had been due to fly home yesterday after a fortnight in Florida.

Hours later a motorist found the child alone and rang the police. A spokesman said: "There is no way she could have walked that far on her own." Officers were still waiting to talk to her about what happened.

Earlier Kim Hanton, for the Orlando police department, said that the McEvoy's were "in a state of distress" about Cadimha's disappearance.

Gerard McEvoy, Cadimha's father, said he and his wife were packing suitcases when the child disappeared. Earlier in the day the family had visited a theme park. The Quality Inn is about 20 miles from Disney World.

Redwood hits sour note in Major's overture

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHEPHERD

JOHN MAJOR last night swept aside the "negative mood music" surrounding the Tory conference by heralding plans to create a "leaner welfare machine" for the 21st century, including a substantial expansion of the US-style welfare scheme.

But he was immediately embroiled in a fresh embarrassment over Europe after John Redwood, the man he defeated in last year's leadership contest, appeared to hesitate in pledging his election support for the Conservatives.

Mr Major, who arrived in Bournemouth determined to lift the Tories from their damaging disputes over Europe and sleaze, found himself besieged with questions about Mr Redwood's remarks on the BBC's *Panorama* programme last night.

According to a BBC press release, Mr Redwood was asked whether voters should support the Referendum Party or the Conservatives. He said: "Well I think you have to ask me that nearer the time when we see what the manifestos are of the major parties and what the views of the different candidates are."

Mr Redwood swiftly made clear that he would ask people to vote for the Conservatives and last night described the BBC's handling of his remarks as a "travesty".

At the centre of the welfare reforms foreshadowed by Mr Major in a speech to Conservative agents last night is a proposal to force up to 75,000 people to undertake community projects in return for £10 more than they currently receive.

Continued on page 2, col 6

Peter Riddell and conference preview, pages 8, 9

John Redwood, page 16

Leading article and letters, page 17

How ceasefire hopes collapsed

August 31, 1994: IRA announces ceasefire but peace talks stall.
February 9, 1996: IRA announces end of ceasefire. Two die when a bomb explodes in London Docklands.
February 15: Semtex bomb made safe in telephone box in Charing Cross Road, London.
February 18: Edward O'Brien, an IRA member, is killed

when bomb he is carrying detonates on board a bus in Aldwych, central London.
March 9: Explosion in Fulham, south west London.
April 17: Explosion at empty house in South Kensington.
April 24: Two bombs on Hammersmith Bridge in west London fail to detonate.
June 15: Manchester city centre bombed: 200 injured.

June 28: Mortars fired at barracks in Germany.
July 15: Car bomb devastates Enniskillen hotel, injuring 17.
July 15: Seven arrested in London after bomb components found.
September 23: Police make arrests in London and Sussex and recover bomb-making equipment. Diarmuid O'Neill shot dead by officer.

£4.7bn rescue deal saves Eurotunnel

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Eurotunnel begin trading again on the Stock Exchange this morning after the company agreed to a £4.7 billion rescue refinancing package with its banks. The shares were suspended at 11.4p last week. The deal, thrashed

out in two months of hard negotiation with representatives of its 225 lenders, lifts the immediate threat of insolvency from the Channel Tunnel operator, which is £9 billion in debt.

Sir Alastair Morton, Eurotunnel's co-chairman, hailed the deal as "fair and robust" and said he hoped the company would start paying dividends by 2006. It does not affect shareholders' rights to free and discount tickets on Channel Tunnel trains.

Under the terms of the highly complex deal the banks have agreed to halve the size of the debt mountain in return for a minimum of 45.5 per cent of the shares.

It still has to be formally approved by shareholders and all the banks. British shareholders welcomed the deal but militant French investors are expected to mount a legal challenge in Paris.

Anatole Kaletsky, page 16
£4.7 billion lifeline, page 25



"We've put him on a workfare scheme"

Fighter delayed
Germany, worried about meeting the criteria to join a single currency, has threatened to delay plans to go ahead with the building of the Eurofighter. The issue threatens to create new tensions between Bonn and Paris. Page 10

Yorkshire move
Yorkshire County Cricket Club has announced plans to leave Headingley in Leeds, its home for 105 years, for a new stadium near Wakefield. The club will own the £50 million complex. Page 48

Thrash young vandals, says Heseltine's mother

By ADRIAN LEE



Mrs Heseltine: "Michael was such an easy boy"

THE 85-year-old mother of Michael Heseltine said unruly children should be given a "sound thrashing" after an elderly neighbour was injured by young vandals.

Mrs Eileen Heseltine lamented the lack of discipline among the young after an elderly neighbour was struck on the head by a stone.

The Deputy Prime Minister's mother and other residents in Leicester Close, Henley-on-Thames, a development of mock-Georgian houses, complain that the tearaways, some as young as five, are making their lives a misery.

Mrs Heseltine said: "The problem with young people now is that they do not respond to authority. Parents need to take children like this in hand. They need to give them a sound thrashing."

Freeman's Meadow, which is popular with children from a council estate near by, adjoins Leicester Close.

Youngsters gather around the swings and climbing frames and, say the residents of Leicester Close, an 8 ft wooden fence, extended by metal wire, has proved no barrier to the missiles of the young vandals. One hit Freda Parkinson, who is in her eighties.

Despite her views, it appeared last night that the young Michael, who once

famously lost his temper and wielded the Mace in the Commons, escaped the weight of his mother's hand.

Speaking on the doorstep of her four-bedroom house Mrs Heseltine said diplomatically: "Michael was never ever any trouble. He was such an easy boy." But she confessed he was not averse to bullying younger children. She recalled one incident: "The only trouble we had was when we were going back to prep school once and there was a new boy and his mother who were both crying. She was trying to get him on board the bus. I said I'd look after him but when they got on the bus Michael said: 'Hop it, that's my seat.' I was so embarrassed."

Mrs Heseltine's views were not universally popular. On the council estate one mother said: "The kids don't mean any harm. One or two might need a clip round the ear but to say they need a sound thrashing is a bit much."

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Republican attack is most serious breach of security at Lisburn

Bombers hit heart of Army's operations

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE Lisburn bombing yesterday represented the biggest breach of security since the end of the ceasefire in February. They breached what should have been one of the toughest security regimes in Northern Ireland to deliver two car bombs into the Army's headquarters.

The bombers will also have taken into account the danger of provoking Loyalist terrorists into a retaliatory strike.

Intelligence sources have been issuing warnings for some time that after recent aborted bombing operations on the mainland, accompanied by arrests of IRA suspects and the seizure of explosives and weapons, the IRA might revert to attacks in Ulster.

For this reason, security status for all troops in Northern Ireland has been high, with orders for everyone to be vigilant, but the Army appears to have failed to enforce the most basic security arrangements at Lisburn, which houses about 1,500 military and civilians.

The barracks at Lisburn, a largely Protestant town about

ten miles from Belfast, extend over a huge area and includes Victorian buildings occupied by the headquarters of 39 Brigade and newer buildings that are the home of Headquarters Northern Ireland. The military base is called Thiepval barracks, named after a First World War battle.

Security arrangements have been changed at Lisburn. In the past, cars driving down Magheralave Road leading to the barracks had to negotiate a concrete chicane before being stopped by armed soldiers.

Today, the chicane has gone and, under a new gate system, a car driver is brought to a halt by armed soldiers standing by a security barrier. If a recognisable pass is shown to the soldiers, the car is told to move slowly forward to a second barrier a few yards away. One Army source said it was "like an air lock system".

The pass has to be shown for a second time and, under the current security alert, a search for bombs or weapons would be regarded as standard practice, an Army source said.

On the left of the barriers, a concrete sangar, like a war-time pillbox, houses an armed soldier on permanent duty. He is supposed to train his SA80 rifle, through a slit, on all approaching vehicles. Army sources said it was normal for even military Land Rovers to be stopped and searched. Civilian vehicles should have been searched automatically.

One source said the drivers of the two cars carrying the bombs must have acquired security passes to be waved on by the soldiers.

A full investigation has been launched into the security breach by the current General Officer Commanding (GOC) Northern Ireland, Lieutenant General Sir Rupert Smith, whose previous appointment



Shocked onlookers in Lisburn yesterday shortly after the car bombs exploded at the Army's headquarters

Loyalist terrorists urged not to hit back in anger

By NICHOLAS WATT

POLITICIANS across the religious divide in Northern Ireland last night condemned the car bombs and appealed for loyalist groups to maintain their ceasefire. David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionists, told them: "Don't allow this to goad you into resuming your campaign. You have the high ground at the moment. Don't follow the evil of the IRA."

Mr Trimble, MP for Upper Bann, added: "The bombs clearly mark an escalation in the IRA campaign. I say to John Major: how much more evidence do you need that the IRA is not committed to peace?"

Gary McMichael, leader of the loyalist Ulster Democratic Party, the political wing of the terrorist Ulster Defence Association, said: "The loyalists will be looking at this very carefully. The signals are that republicans are not interested in finding a democratic settlement."

Mr McMichael, who is a councillor in Lisburn, said: "This is obviously a republican attack from some quarter. This gives me very great concern about what the repercussions may be."

"This would be the first attack on a military establishment by republicans since the breaking of the IRA ceasefire. Loyalists will be looking at

this very closely; it signifies that republicans are not intent on finding a democratic settlement."

John Hume, the leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, said: "This is bad news. It is a matter of deep concern for Northern Ireland. I extend my sympathies to those who have been injured."

Nigel Dodds, a councillor representing the Democratic Unionist Party, said: "This is a devastating blow for everybody, taking people back to the dark days, something people had hoped was behind them. It is a major setback for the Province and for the peace process."

British Railways Board fined £200,000 for crash

British Railways Board was fined £200,000 yesterday after a failure to carry out correct signal repairs led to a collision between two trains. Snarebrook Crown Court was told that a train carrying 16 passengers ran into the back of an empty stationary train near Wood Street station, east London, at 5.30am on September 19 last year.

There were no fatalities as a separate signal fault, for which the British Railways Board was not responsible, had indicated to the oncoming train to slow down. BRB admitted having failed to repair the initial signal fault, in contravention of the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act. BRB has since ensured all staff are fully trained.

Junior schools 'should teach Latin'

Primary school children would benefit from learning a second language from the age of nine, Dr Nicholas Tate, head of the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority, said yesterday. Spanish or even Latin could be introduced as alternative to the traditional French. Dr Tate told a London conference on the curriculum in the next century.

Report urges police chase review

Police training for high-speed pursuits should be urgently reviewed, the Police Complaints Authority said in a report on the death of Judith Hood, 27, a student nurse who was hit by a patrol car driven at 100mph. The authority ruled that the police vehicle was being driven at an "indefensible" speed when it crashed into the back of her stationary car.

Soldier is jailed for car deaths

A paratrooper who killed two soldiers in a car crash was jailed for 2½ years yesterday after admitting causing two deaths by dangerous driving. Lance-Corporal Martin Jones, 28, based at Aldershot, had fallen asleep at the wheel after a SAS selection test in the Brecon Beacons. Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court was told. He will be discharged from the Army.

Graffiti vandal free to pursue art

A graffiti vandal was released from prison after the Court of Appeal was told he had found a new purpose in life through his art. Simon Sunderland, 24, of Sheffield, served two years of a five-year sentence and will take up a place at Barnsley College to study art. Sheffield City Council had spent £5,000 removing his work from municipal buildings.

Runaway murderer recaptured

A murderer who was on the run for four days has been recaptured. Thomas McCammon, 36, was captured at a house in Edinburgh on Sunday evening after escaping from guards during an escorted visit in Leith. McCammon, who was serving life at Saughton Prison, was due to appear before Edinburgh Sheriff's Court, charged with escaping.

Rail workers 'caused explosions'

Two rail workers planted industrial fireworks inside three telephone boxes near Canterbury then watched the subsequent explosions. Maidstone Crown Court was told. Brian Gill, 46, and David Harris, 31, of Dover, deny three charges of damaging property and being reckless as to whether life was endangered. The case continues.

England footballer charged

Lee Bowyer, 19, a footballer who plays for Leeds United and the England under-21 team, was yesterday charged with violent disorder after an early-morning brawl at a fast-food restaurant last week, police said. Bowyer will appear at Thames Magistrates' Court next month with two others.

Mandy Allwood leaves hospital

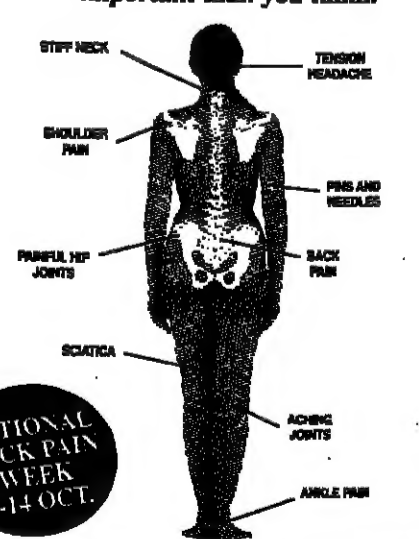
Mandy Allwood, 31, who lost eight babies last week, was allowed home from hospital last night. Doctors at King's College Hospital, south London, said that she had made a good recovery despite being distraught at the loss. She is believed to have been counselled by a bereavement midwife.

High-life profits return

Evidence of a returning "feel-good" factor has come with both Rolls-Royce and Moss Bros reporting booming business. Rolls-Royce say British sales are up by 34 per cent on last year, while profits from Moss Bros's clothing stores rose by £1.7 million in six months. Record profits, page 26

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Downey steers clear of MPs

By VALERIE ELLIOTT WHITEHALL, EDITOR

SIR GORDON DOWNEY, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, said last night he would prefer to turn to the Speaker of the House for assistance with his inquiry into the Neil Hamilton affair than to MPs. He was determined to ensure the independence of the inquiry, which he described as "the first significant test of my role".

It was always envisaged by the Nolan committee on standards in public life that Sir Gordon would turn to the Select Committee on Standards and Privileges if he needed extra help. But he said he was not sure that this was the right procedure in this instance. The issue has become clouded after allegations that the Government had tried to frustrate the Commons inquiry into cash-for-questions.

Sir Gordon said: "I believe it is very important to ensure the independence of my inquiry, and therefore I think I should stay independent of the select committee. If I need assistance I will probably go to the House of Commons authorities, either to the Speaker or the Serjeant at Arms."

He said the inquiry was the first significant test of his role as set out by Lord Nolan. But until he had received the documents and assessed the amount of work involved, Sir Gordon said he did not know how much extra help would be required.

Despite demands from the Prime Minister, The Guardian and Mr Hamilton himself for the need for a speedy investigation, last night no papers had been received by Sir Gordon's office from any of the parties. There appeared to be some confusion as to whether the Cabinet Office or the Treasury solicitors' department was responsible for collating the documents and handing them over.

Greer payment, page 8
Leading article, page 17

Sour note

Continued from page 1

ceive on benefit. At present only 4,000 people are covered by two pilot schemes. But after a meeting of ministers in London last night the plan is to be introduced in five major cities and will cover a quarter of the 250,000 long-term unemployed in Britain. Tory sources said it was the first step to extending the scheme to the whole country, a possible pledge in the Conservative election manifesto.

Under workfare the long-term unemployed have to spend 13 weeks on job retraining and 13 weeks on community projects, such as gardening and refuse collection. If they refuse to co-operate they will have 40 per cent of their benefit docked. If after 26 weeks the participants, aged between 18 and 50, fail to get a job they go back on the normal rate of unemployment benefit.

Mr Major's speech marked the start of a week-long campaign to present the Tories as a party which has not run out of steam and which has a full programme for a fifth term of government. He spoke of his determination to ensure that everyone who wanted a job should have help to get one. "to move from dole to dignity".

The conference opens today under the slogan "Opportunity for all". Asked about Mr Redwood's remarks Mr Major angrily replied: "John Redwood is a Conservative MP. He is making perfectly clear he is working for a Conservative victory at the next election."

Mr Redwood later accused the BBC of taking his words out of context.

"I support Conservative candidates. I work tirelessly for the Conservative cause," he said.

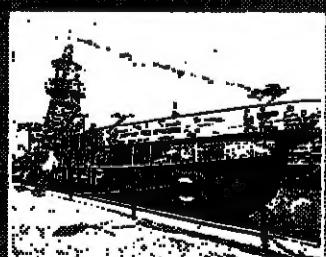
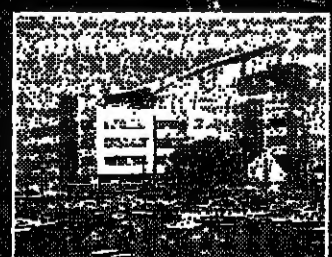
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From today the standard weekday price of The Times will rise to 35p. The Saturday edition will cost 50p. The special Monday price of 10p will continue unchanged. Newsprint costs have risen by more than 70 per cent since The Times first cut its price three years ago. During that time circulation has more than doubled and The Times has increased in size and range faster than at any time in its history.

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هكذا في الأصل



Tom and Jodi Loughlin

Children cut off 'by 3ft of sea water'

By JOANNA BALE

THE father of Tom and Jodi Loughlin, the children who drowned after going missing on a Norfolk beach, yesterday called for action to highlight the dangers of Britain's shoreline.

Kevin Loughlin made his appeal as a coroner recorded a verdict of misadventure on Jodi, 6, and Tom, 4, who were swept out to sea.

Mr Loughlin said that he and his partner Lynette Thornton were helping each other put on suntan cream while their children ran into the water on the second day of their family holiday.

He said that Tom ran off soon after arriving at the beach at Holme next the Sea, near Hunstanton, and that Jodi had followed because her brother was calling her.

Mr Loughlin said he and Miss Thornton let the two children out of their sight for only five minutes before going to look for them. They had arrived at the beach just after 5pm and had settled at a spot 400 yards from the water's edge where they changed into swimming costumes.

Mr Loughlin told the inquest in Norwich: "Lynette was putting up Jodi's hair into a bun. Tom was already changed. Something must have excited him and he started to run off towards the direction of the water away from us. Very soon after, Jodi said: 'Mummy I have to go. Tom's calling me'."

The couple, of Upper Norwood, south London, spent nearly two hours searching the beach separately before alerting police.

The children's bodies were washed up two weeks later 30 miles away near Sheringham. Post-mortem examinations concluded that they had both drowned.

A Norfolk coastguard, David Thiel, told the inquest that on the day the children disappeared on August 18 there was spring tide that caused the sea to come in much faster than usual. There were also dangerous channels and sandbars running parallel with the beach causing pockets of water 3ft deep.

After the inquest Mr Loughlin called for action to be taken to inform the public of the dangers of "hidden shelves".

Couple say planners 'destroyed our home, our life and our dream'

Bypass scheme left £450,000 house worthless

By KATHRYN KNIGHT

A COUPLE'S £450,000 retirement home on the Norfolk Broads was transformed into a worthless liability when the local council announced plans for a major road to be built yards from their back door. The High Court was told yesterday.

Maurice and Audrey Balchin had dreamt of settling on the Broads since they married 40 years ago and in 1984 Mr Balchin built Swans Harbour, a waterside home with landscaped gardens, at Wroxham, the court was told.

But a year after they moved in, Norfolk County Council announced plans for a road between Wroxham and Hoveton, which would run through the garden of the neighbouring property. It was a "planning nightmare" which led to the collapse of Mr Balchin's chartered surveying business and destroyed his wife's health, Mr Justice Sedley was told.

Eleven years on, the bypass remains unbuilt, but the Balchins are bankrupt after being forced to pay back a

bank loan after their property was deemed worthless by estate agents. The strain forced them to abandon the five-bedroom house, which lies overgrown and empty, to five on income support in a rented property miles away.

The judge was told that the couple had spent years pursuing fruitless appeals in Norfolk County Council, the Department of Transport and the Parliamentary Ombudsman in an attempt to win compensation. They hope the judge will overturn a ruling by the Parliamentary Ombudsman that there was no maladministration on the part of the Department of Transport when it approved the bypass.

"We are alleging there was negligence, intention, incompetence and ineptitude by the Department of Transport," Charles George, QC, for the Balchins, told the court.

After plans for the road were announced, Norfolk County Council purchased the Balchins' neighbouring property, which had once belonged to George Formby, the enter-

tainer. The Balchins were told they were not entitled to compensation until after the bypass was built as it would set a "dangerous precedent", Mr George told the court.

Mr Balchin had borrowed from the bank to provide his business with working capital but was told he must pay back the money as his house could no longer be regarded as an asset. His business collapsed and the couple had to move from the house on medical advice after Mrs Balchin's health deteriorated. "Mr Balchin has been unable to earn money and is on income support. Mrs Balchin's health is extremely poor as a result of this planning nightmare... they have received no offer for the property whatsoever, derisory or otherwise, and it is fair to say that it is for all practical purposes worthless," Mr George told the court.

The final irony is that planning permission for the road has been withdrawn. In June of this year my clients were informed by Norfolk County Council that they have revoked the planning permission and that this road scheme would not go ahead."

After a public inquiry in 1991 a Department of Transport inspector highlighted the couple's plight and said it hoped the council would act sympathetically. But in 1992 the Transport Secretary confirmed the road scheme without acting on the recommendation for understanding. Later that year the Balchins went to the ombudsman to challenge the Transport Secretary's decision but the ombudsman found there had been nothing untoward in the Department of Transport's decision. David Elvin, for the Parliamentary Ombudsman,



Maurice and Audrey Balchin of Swans Harbour at the High Court yesterday

told the judge that the Transport Secretary had no power to interfere with the county council's decision.

The Balchins now want the decision overturned on the first step of their battle for compensation. "We are alleging there was maladministration and the Parliamentary Ombudsman should have found accordingly," Mr George said. "By any standard the Balchins have had a raw deal and there doesn't

seem to have been very much they could have done about it themselves."

Outside the court, Mr Balchin said his world had fallen apart when he found out about the bypass plans. "I first saw the spot where I built Swans Harbour as a schoolboy. When I met my wife we used to visit it at weekends and I told her that one day I would build her a house there. We realised our dream but then our world fell apart." He

said the fact the scheme had been cancelled for the time being did not change his situation as the house would still effectively remain worthless. "But this is a matter of principle as much as anything. We can never get back what we lost, all we ever wanted was the value of the home. They've destroyed our home and life but more than anything they have destroyed our dream," he said. The case continues.



Heronby, George Formby's former home, which was to have had the bypass running through it

Show goes on after officials decide not to play by the rules

By DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A RUSSIAN pianist who won this year's Leeds International Piano Competition, one of the world's most prestigious prizes, almost had to cancel a concert offered as a result of his win because government officials wanted to be sure that a British pianist could not have performed just as well.

Ilya Itin, 29, found that a win at the Leeds competition did not necessarily open doors: those into Britain seemed firmly shut when he tried to fly in

from his home in New York. He found that government officials could not instantly be swayed by either his prize-winning certificate or the reviews of his performance of Rachmaninov's *Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini*: one critic had described him as a "pianist of formidable accomplishment" and another praised his "supreme technical command".

Itin's agent at Harrison Parrott explained that as his client had not expected to win the competition, he had not applied for a multi-entry visa. Officials eventually allowed

him into Britain and he arrived just hours before his first concert with the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra. Normally it takes four weeks to obtain a work permit.

Anthony Woodcock, managing director of the BSO, said that there were inevitably problems with visas and permits, but they usually cropped up months before — "not at the eleventh hour". "He was due to perform with us on Saturday, playing the piece he won the competition with. On Thursday, it looked as if it would be cancelled altogether. We kept getting calls from his agent. The

poor chap arrived on Saturday, jetlagged, having been inconvenienced in this way." Officials, he said, "should recognise that we live in an international artistic environment".

Mike Dwyer, the British Consul in New York, explained that the Department of Employment issued work permits and that "within minutes" of hearing that one had been authorised, they issued a visa. They speeded the process by getting confirmation over the telephone, rather than seeing the paperwork. A spokeswoman for the Department of

Employment confirmed that application for a work permit must be made by someone in Britain and that "anyone applying would have to demonstrate that they have carried out a search of the resident UK labour force who couldn't do the task". She said that the permit application had been made on September 23 by Harrison Parrott. "So it has been dealt with very quickly: they had it within a week and half and it usually takes 20 working days. Employers are aware that we cannot turn them round overnight, but we try to be as helpful as we can."

Mr Keay, of Docklands, east London, denied one count of rape on January 19 this year and maintained he was merely responding to her advances. He said he seduced her as he had before and she went along with it. "She never told me to stop... after we were having sex she did say stop and I stopped immediately."

As of October 27:

First across the Chann

Whiplash injury 'wrecked sculptor's career'

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SCULPTOR who claims his career was ruined by whiplash injuries suffered in an apparently "trivial" road accident started his fight for compensation in the High Court yesterday.

Michael D'Alby Black, 68, whose past commissions have included busts of prime ministers Sir Alec Douglas-Home and Harold Macmillan, has not worked since his car was struck from behind by a baker's van on the M4 in 1991, Miss Jean Ritchie, QC, his counsel, told the court.

"That trivial accident has had the most devastating consequences for Mr Black," she said. "At the time of the accident he was 62 years old, he was a sculptor and a sculptor of renown. He has never been able to work since the accident."

She said that his work was his life. "He was able to express himself through his art and he derived huge pleasure and satisfaction from sculpting."

Miss Ritchie said that success had brought Mr Black a good lifestyle, enabling him to live in a five-bedroom house in Oxford and to send three of his children to private schools.

At the time of the accident he had been planning a retrospective exhibition of his work to be held in summer 1994, the court was told. "But he was never able to complete the work for the retrospective, and prestigious commissions that



D'Alby Black: sculpted busts of prime ministers

he was offered after the accident had to be turned down," Miss Ritchie said. "He has never been able to achieve that apotheosis of his artistic expression that means so much to an artist and upon which future work can be built."

She described Mr Black as a man of great strength who before the accident thought nothing of wielding heavy tools, moving heavy blocks of granite or rowing for 30 miles. He was now unable to do so.

Mr Black is seeking substantial damages from the driver of the van which struck him and his employers at the time, the Family Loan Bakery, of Windsor, Berkshire, who admit liability but dispute the amount of compensation.

Miss Ritchie told Mr Justice Morland that but for the accident, Mr Black would have continued with his artistic endeavours for the rest of his life. But he faces defence claims that due to "pre-existing degenerative changes" in his back, he would not have been able to continue with his demanding work beyond the age of 65.

Guy Anthony, counsel for the defence, said one of the key issues was the true level of Mr Black's earning power at the time of the accident.

The hearing continues.

Tartan tax threat leaves kilt wearers reeling

By ALAN HAMILTON

TORY threats that devolution for Scotland would mean a "tartan tax" have failed to mention a more immediately pressing problem — a threat by the Inland Revenue to tax kilts.

Employees of Hector Russell, a large Scottish manufacturer of Highland dress, who are issued with kilts, sporrans and other Highland accoutrements as part of their work, were told by the taxman recently that they were a benefit in kind, and they would have to pay tax on them. With typical Celtic caniness, the Scots have found what in other circumstances would be a most undesirable feature in a kilt — a loophole.

The company will now issue its workers with kilts featuring a non-detachable pin bearing the Hector Russell logo. That, they believe, will turn the kilt into a uniform which employees would wear only at work, and in which they would not be seen dead in public.

Tax officials recently singled out the company, and demanded six years' back tax on the workers' kilts, on the grounds that they were normal dress which could be worn outside and were therefore a taxable benefit. However, the company has now negotiated a period of grace, promising that by next year all its employees will be wearing only kilts emblazoned with the company name and logo. They will then, it is hoped, be classed as uniforms.

Michael Cantlay, chairman

of Hector Russell, said yesterday that the problem could affect many thousands of employees in the tourist and retail industries in Scotland who regularly wear Highland dress as part of their work. He would be working with the Scottish Tourist Board to spread awareness of the problem.

The Inland Revenue in London yesterday denied that the taxman was singling out Scots. "The rule is that if clothing identifies the wearer as being a member of a certain occupation, like a policeman or a nurse, it is not taxable," a spokesman said. "If a bank employee is issued with a blazer bearing the word Barclays, we assume he would not wear that in his spare time, and it is therefore classed as a uniform and not taxable. But the company logo has to be conspicuous and permanent — enough to deter the wearer from using the garment for their own leisure."

Fighting the Revenue on the question of work clothes has a long history. Ann Mallalieu, QC, the prominent barrister, took her case for dark court clothes to be tax-deductible all the way to the House of Lords, but in the end they allowed her only her wig and gown. Opera singers have also successfully argued for the elaborate gowns in which they sing, on the grounds that under no circumstances would they walk through Covent Garden on their way to work dressed like that.

Trainee barrister cleared of raping colleague

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A TRAINEE barrister was cleared yesterday of raping a fellow law student after his accuser admitted that he had desisted as soon as she said "wait".

The married woman, now qualified for the Bar, also admitted that she had not said anything to object. She made her accusation against Keay Soo, 22, just two months after she had a short affair with him. The jury took less than an hour to find Mr Keay, a Malaysian, not guilty.

He showed no emotion at the verdict and refused to comment on the Crown's decision to bring the case to court. But yesterday Christopher Sallon, QC, chairman of the Bar's public affairs committee, questioned whether the case should ever have been pursued. He said: "I don't know the details but in general the Crown Prosecution Service has become very, very sensitive to criticism. Cases which, five or six years ago, they would not have prosecuted, they now let the court decide. I am a great believer in juries and if they take less than one hour, you can be sure that the case was very weak."

The CPS said that the case had been committed by magistrates "who would have judged that there was sufficient case for a jury" after an old-style hearing where all the evidence was rehearsed.

During the week-long trial Kim Jenkins, for the defence, accused the female barrister, in her twenties, of crying rape because she felt guilty about betraying her husband and wanted to shift the blame. She and Mr Keay had been friends for three years after meeting at college to study law and she had finally succumbed to his advances in a two-week affair following her marriage.

She had spurned Mr Keay following the affair, the court was told. She claimed he hid behind a door in her room a few months later and raped her when she came in after a shower. She said she tried to kneel him to escape but admitted in cross-examination that she had not actually said anything to indicate her lack of consent. He had desisted immediately when she said "Wait".

Mr Keay, of Docklands, east London, denied one count of rape on January 19 this year and maintained he was merely responding to her advances. He said he seduced her as he had before and she went along with it. "She never told me to stop... after we were having sex she did say stop and I stopped immediately."

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Golf club bans mother and adopted son

By Emma Wilkins

A MOTHER whose 13-year-old son was banned from taking part in a family golfing tournament because he was adopted said yesterday she would never return to the club which discriminated against him. Audrey Briggs, an accomplished player who has represented Great Britain and Ireland in golf tournaments, said Burhill Golf Club, at Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, was enforcing unacceptable upsetting and antiquated rules.

A spokesman insisted yesterday that Burhill would make no comment until Dick Richards, the club secretary, returned from his holiday next week.

Mrs Briggs and her husband, who adopted their son Laurie as a baby in Brazil, had never faced discrimination until mother and son entered a family foursomes tournament at Burhill last August. The pair played well enough to progress to the third round but an unnamed fellow competitor complained

to the club secretary that they had broken the rules because Laurie was adopted.

"We are not ashamed of Laurie, in fact we are proud to have adopted him," Mrs Briggs said from the family home in West Kirby, Cheshire. "I am reasonably well known by players because I have been playing golf for years and someone knew that Laurie was adopted and complained. I couldn't possibly say how I feel about that person," she added.

Laurie, who is in his first term at Shrewsbury School, was told by his mother that he would not be allowed to play in the next round at Burhill. "I spoke to him to explain but Laurie was just perplexed by the whole thing. He was down in the dumps for a bit but he just put it down to grown-ups behaving very oddly," Mrs Briggs said.

"If Burhill were to change the rules and welcome us then I would go back, but I will never go back otherwise. I really do think in this day and



Barred: Laurie Briggs was disqualified after a club member complained

age that its very out of date and quite unacceptable to discriminate against an adopted child. At least by bringing it out in the open I will prevent some other mother from the upset of finding out that their adopted child is not allowed to play."

Michael Bonallack, secretary of the Royal & Ancient, the St Andrews body which governs the rules of the game, said he deplored the club's action. "It is awful and very sad. It goes against the whole

concept of a family foursome as they appear to be saying that some families aren't as much families as others. I have every sympathy for Mrs Briggs and her son and I hope the club will have another think about its conditions. I wouldn't want to play in a competition where players complained that somebody's son was adopted."

Ray Burniston, national secretary of the Association of Golf Club Secretaries, said: "Golf clubs run their own

competitions and are able to set their own rules, which people must accept. I have two adopted sons and I believe that family competitions should be for all families, whether they are step-families or adopted."

Laurie's father, also called Laurie, is a former captain of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. His wife won four Welsh championships in five years from 1970 and twice represented Great Britain and Ireland.

Palestinian woman 'planted car bomb outside embassy'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

A MIDDLE-AGED Palestinian housewife planted a car bomb outside the Israeli Embassy in London as part of a plot to disrupt the Middle Eastern peace accord, it was claimed at the Old Bailey yesterday.

The other plotters were allegedly three Palestinians who were highly integrated into English society and members of the middle or upper-middle classes. They were graduates of British universities and used their training to help to make the bomb left outside the Embassy in July 1994 and a device placed near a Jewish organisation in north London a few hours later.

Nadia Zekra, 50, of West Kensington, London, denies planting the bomb outside the Embassy, Samar Alami, 30, of South Kensington, London; Javed Botmeh, 28, of Bloomsbury, London; and Mahmoud Abu Waddeh, 26, from Putney, southwest London, plead not guilty to one charge of conspir-

acy to cause explosions between 1993 and 1995, one charge of possessing explosive and three charges involving the possession of firearms.

The bomb outside the Israeli Embassy was left in a car parked by a middle-aged woman on July 26, 1994. The woman told PC Ian Duncan, on diplomatic patrol outside the Embassy, she was delivering a present and had been asked to come back in a few minutes. The woman told the policeman she was going to buy some cigarettes and offered him the keys of her car before walking away. PC Duncan grew anxious and radioed to check the registration. The car seemed genuine but within minutes it exploded, causing £5 million of damage.

The bomb was made with many kilos of a high explosive that left no trace. A similar explosive was used that evening to detonate a car bomb close to Balfour House, in

Finchley High Street, the base of the Jewish Philanthropic Organisation.

Mr Calvert-Smith said none of the five were accused of planting the north London bomb. The following days letters claiming responsibility were sent to two London Arabic newspapers and to the London office of the PLO by a group calling itself the Palestinian Resistance Jaffa Group.

Mr Calvert-Smith said Mrs Zekra was picked out in an identity parade by PC Duncan. Mr Botmeh, said counsel, bought the two cars for the bombs at auctions using false addresses and names. Miss Alami had a handwritten list of prominent English Jews.

As Mr Abu Waddeh's home police found a list of the names of the editors to whom the claims for the bombs had been sent. A fingerprint from Miss Alami was on the paper. The trial continues.

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Queen returns to confront family dilemma

By Alan Hamilton

THE Queen returns to London today from the tranquility of her holiday in Balmoral to confront the continuing problem of the Duchess of York.

Palace officials are privately expressing increasing concern at the duchess's continuing high-spending lifestyle, and at the fact that three new books by or about her threaten further to tarnish by association the reputation of the Royal Family.

Royal sources have, however, strongly denied reports in some newspapers that the Queen has called a "summit" to discuss what to do about the duchess, and that the monarch is planning to pay off the duchess's reported £5 million debts in return for her living in exile abroad, giving all claim to her two children Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, and withdrawing her autobiography due to be published next month.

The fact that something needs to be done is not the same as the fact that something is being done, one royal source said yesterday. "The Queen would like to be sympathetic, but the solution to the problem does not lie in her hands. The duchess should know that there are obligations as well as privileges to

being connected with the Royal Family."

Sources have also discounted reports that the Duke of York is prepared to help bail out his former wife with a gift of £400,000. "It is a difficult predicament for the duchess, and no one here wishes to be unsympathetic. But it is also difficult for the duke, who has only his Royal Navy pay and does not have £400,000 to lay hands on at a moment's notice," one palace official said.

The Palace is now waiting to see whether the duchess's autobiography breaches the personal undertaking she gave to the Queen at the time of her divorce that she would never write anything revealing or damaging about other members of the Royal Family.

Major Ronald Ferguson, the duchess's father, confirmed yesterday that his daughter would never enter any deal that meant her giving up her two children. "Sarah is strong and contrary to what is said in the newspapers, she does not flee from anything. She is fed up with the really vicious press comment."

Major Ferguson added: "What happened in the past. She must be allowed now to get on with her personal life."

Jury told Clegg story libelled law firm

By Nicholas Watt

A LEADING firm of Belfast solicitors was libelled by a front-page article in *The Times* which reported claims that it was inefficient in preparing the defence case for Pte Lee Clegg, a Belfast jury was told yesterday.

The paratrooper was convicted in 1993 of the murder of Karen Reilly after he opened fire on joyriders in West Belfast in 1990 after their car sped through a security check point. Pte Clegg was freed on licence in July 1995 after a campaign led by a group of retired officers from the Parachute Regiment.

Michael Lavery QC, for the Belfast solicitors McCartan, Turkington, Breen, which originally acted for the soldier, told Belfast High Court yesterday that *The Times* repeated allegations in a front page article that the firm had failed fully to investigate scientific and ballistic evidence.

The article, which was the main item on the paper's front page on January 24, 1995, included a report of a press conference in Yorkshire called by the Clegg Campaign Committee.

Mr Lavery told the court: "It is difficult to imagine a graver case than a case of murder, which calls for the utmost professionalism, and to have someone to point the finger and say you made a mess of it."

The hearing continues today.



One of the 32 gold coins

Legend of buried gold comes true

By Russell Jenkins

A LOCAL legend about buried treasure has proved true after a metal detector enthusiast found a hoard of 486 Civil War coins.

Roy Lewis, 54, who found 32 gold and 454 silver coins near an historic mansion on the Tregwyn estate, near Fishguard, said: "There has been a local legend in the area but everyone assumed it was from when the French invaded 150 years later."

The coins, believed to have been buried in 1646, span 150 years and five Royal reigns. They were almost certainly buried in haste by Llewellyn Harries, Tregwyn's owner and a Royalist.

Mr Lewis was invited to search for treasure when Michael and Ann Sayer, the estate's owners, dug up the grounds to make way for tennis courts.

From the golden years of jam-making and cleaning to the harsh realities of menopause and divorce



Women of the hour at Broadcasting House yesterday: from left, arts administrator Genista McIntosh, actress Diana Quick, writer Marina Warner, MP Clare Short, presenter Jenni Murray, MP Edwina Currie and broadcaster Janet Street-Porter

Woman's Hour marks 50 years of domestic service

By CAROL MIDDLEY

FIFTY years after it went on air telling women about the all-purpose duster and how to deslime their flannel, *Woman's Hour* yesterday celebrated its golden anniversary.

The BBC Radio 4 programme, invented by a man to encourage women to rebuild their domestic lives after wartime service, marked its half century with a special programme featuring women who have considerably more in their lives than housework and who also turn 50 this year: they included the MPs Edwina Currie and Clare Short and Janet Street-Porter, the former head of youth programming for BBC TV.

Woman's Hour, radio's longest-running magazine programme and the first which dared to mention the menopause, started life on October 7, 1946, as a lighthearted 60 minutes spent discussing jam-making and child-rearing, but is now at the cutting edge of feminism and politics. Some critics believe the show has become too militant.

Today's more hard-hitting format, hosted by Jenni Murray,



Alan Ivieson: presented first programme in 1946

embraces discussions on divorce, prostitution and child abuse as well as more homely subjects, and has not found favour with many of the old school.

Jean Metcalfe, 73, who presented the programme from 1947 to 1958, said: "It is not for women of my generation any more. It is an entirely different thing because young women are an entirely different species today. I think the subjects and the way they are presented are far too assertive now. We used to do the whole

thing in a much more lighthearted way. I can't say that I listen to it very much these days."

The novelist June Knox-Mawer, 66, host of *Weekend Woman's Hour* from 1979 to 1983, said the current programme was "heavy".

"It wasn't so earnest then... we were allowed to be frivolous and lighthearted. There was something special about that old afternoon slot, when the hard work was done and women could have a break."

The first programme, which went out between 2pm and 3pm, was presented by Alan Ivieson, who told women listeners this was "your programme — designed for you". During a set piece known as Mother's Midday Meal, Mary Manton extolled the virtues of bread rationing and confided that she liked to cook herrings for lunch because she could mop and dust while the fish cooked.

Yesterday's live programme featured a quiz on women's issues. In a series of programmes this week, Helen Mirren will consider the benefits of turning 50, Patricia Hodge will look back at the treatment of animals by *Woman's Hour* and Maureen Lipman will examine its coverage of men.

Former Test star forced to sign on

By JOHN GOODBODY

A FORMER England fast bowler signed on the dole yesterday because he has had no regular work since he was made redundant as a coach for Surrey at the beginning of the summer.

Graham Dilley, 37, is preparing to raise money by selling some of the trophies and medals he won during a career in which he became England's 18th highest Test wicket-taker.

He is particularly worried that he may have to sell the cottage in Worcestershire where he lives with his unemployed wife, Nikki, and their two young sons. "At the moment I am just surviving, but if something doesn't turn up soon, I will be in trouble."

Dilley, who had to retire from first-class cricket after he suffered a back injury in 1992, was employed by Surrey in 1994. However, he was unable to move south because he could not sell the family home. "I was having to commute. Surrey said they could not afford the mileage and so they let me go."

Unlike many leading players, Dilley, who took 138 wickets in his 41 tests, did not have a benefit year. He said he had not been able to find any work to do with cricket. "I thought it would not be that much of a problem but I obviously misjudged that one."

He said he was well rewarded for his services to England and in domestic cricket. "But it's not as if I was set for life and just frittered all my money away."

David Graveney, general secretary of the Cricketers' Association, the players' trade union, said: "This is very sad. You do sometimes find a county player who finds himself in this situation. However, this seems unique for a player of such a high profile."



Dilley: misjudged the job situation

'Soft touch' clergy to be taught how to turn away undeserving

By RUTH GLEDHILL
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

CLERGY are to be briefed today on how to deal with the growing numbers of drunks, drug addicts and thieves who turn up on their vicarage doorsteps demanding money.

The Gloucester diocese is concerned that clergy and their wives, while trying to obey the biblical imperative to be Good Samaritans, face growing threats of violence from beggars who are often mentally ill or want money for drugs or drink.

The conference was planned before the murder of the Rev Christopher Gray, 32, stabbed to death outside his parish church in Liverpool in August. The clergy are also under threat from bullying and intimidation by the public, according to the MSF union, which has a growing clergy section. It is preparing a report on how clergy can learn to cope.

Violence, taunting and teasing have increased in the past 20 years as the once universal respect for the Church has declined, undermining confidence among clergy and causing distress to their families. The Christian command to "turn the other cheek" means many are unwilling or do not know how to fight back.

Many clergy are seen as easy targets by drug addicts and violent callers. The Right Rev David Bentley, Bishop of Gloucester, has invited his clergy and their partners to attend today's conference, titled "Knocking at Heaven's Door", in order "to explore how the Church can respond to the needs of the casual caller".

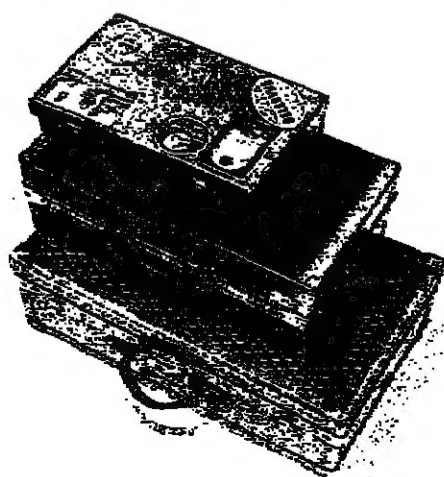
Many such conferences are planned throughout the country. The Rev John Penny, priest-in-charge at Upton St Leonards in the Gloucester diocese, said: "In the old days callers maybe just wanted money for a cup of tea and a sandwich. We are now getting drug addicts and mentally ill people who have perhaps been returned to the community too early."

Chris Ball, of the MSF, said: "We want to see the issue of violence and the problems of working alone taken seriously by the Church." He said people providing one-to-one services in areas of social deprivation were at risk.

CORRECTION

The number of ethnic Hungarians in Romania is 1.6 million (report, September 17).

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Daughter pays West house a final visit

By Bill Frost

DEMOLITION work began yesterday on 25 Cromwell Street, Gloucester, as the city council announced that Rosemary West would be allowed a say in the future of the site.

Gloucester City Council said no direct approaches would be made to West, jailed for life for ten murders, but any views expressed through Leo Goatley, her solicitor, would be considered.

Anne-Marie Davis, Frederick West's daughter, visited the house before demolition work began. Mrs Davis, who was abused by her father and stepmother in the basement, said: "I felt that I needed to visit the house for one last time to lay it to rest. As I was going down the stairs, I could feel and almost taste the fear."

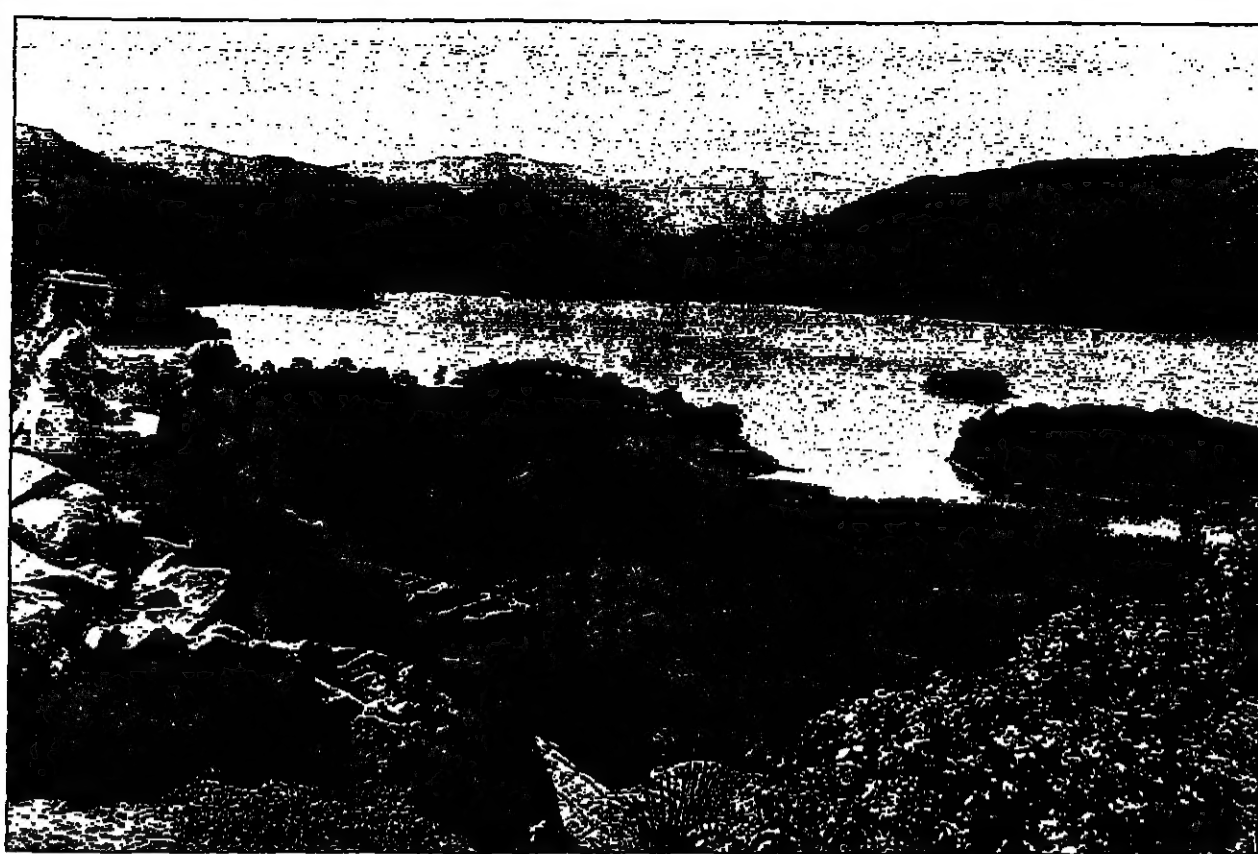
The city council yesterday announced details of a public consultation, costing £15,000, to seek views of residents and the victims' families about the future of the site. Demolition is expected to be completed in about a fortnight.

Asked if approaches would be made to West in Durham jail, Mike McCabe, a council spokesman, said: "We will not be contacting Rosemary West, but if we receive any opinions via her solicitor then they will be looked at along with everything else."

Relatives of those murdered at 25 Cromwell Street by West and her husband, who committed suicide while awaiting trial, will be interviewed first. About 350 people living in the immediate area will then be interviewed. Interviews are also being arranged with some of the older West children.

Mr Goatley said: "When someone suggested some time ago that 25 Cromwell Street should be demolished and a memorial garden created in memory of the victims, Mrs West expressed the view that it would be a good idea."

Caroline Roberts, a former teenage nanny to the West children who survived an attack by their parents, said yesterday: "It's not right to remember those young girls in the place where they suffered so much. A memorial should be in a religious place, in the cathedral or in its grounds, where it will be treated with respect."



Henry Mayson's view of Derwent Water, featuring his children. George and Ashley Abraham went to extraordinary lengths to capture their subjects

Gallery of forgotten Victorian photographs offers slice of Lakeland history on a plate

By John Shaw

A COLLECTION of 8,500 photographic negatives of the Lake District, stored in a loft in Leicestershire for 30 years, is expected to fetch up to £80,000 at auction next week. Many of the images date from Victorian times.

The glass plates, weighing 3½ tons, feature the work of the celebrated photographers Henry Mayson, George and Ashley Abraham and their father, also George.

Peter Foster, a retired headmaster who bought the plates for less than £2,000 when they were sold as trade stock in the 1960s, said yesterday: "When I bought them it was my intention to set up a gallery when my wife and I retired to Keswick. Our plans have changed a bit since then, and now, quite frankly, we've run out of steam. We'd really like someone else to have them and, perhaps, exhibit them as we planned to do."

Roger Smith, the specialist

in charge of the sale at Phillips, said: "These photographs represent a fantastic slice of social history from one of the most beautiful areas of Britain. They show everyday life in a most vivid way — bridal groups, football teams, cricket elevens and the volunteer fire brigade which turned up every year for its annual group picture. They are full of nostalgia."

The photographs include scenes of rural life, shepherds on the fells, housewives at market in long skirts and white aprons and local personalities. Among them is the only known picture of John Peel, the huntsman.

Mr Smith said it took a full day to remove the plates from Mr Foster's loft at Melton Mowbray, as the heavy boxes had to be brought down a ladder one at a time. The biggest of the plates measures 2½ by 1½ ft.

The collections span the period from 1860 to 1950 and

include portraits of the Royal Family, of the art critic John Ruskin and of later visitors such as J.B. Priestley.

George and Ashley Abrahams, known as the "Keswick brothers", are the best known of the Victorian Lakeland photographers. They expanded their horizons to mountain climbing in the Swiss Alps and Ashley Abraham became president of the Rock and Fell Climbing Club.

Their father was born in Wiltshire in 1844 and set up his photographic business in Keswick in 1866. Although he concentrated on portraits he also had a passion for landscapes. He later became a fellow of the Royal Photographic Society.

His sons would haul up to 20lb of equipment to seemingly inaccessible crags and peaks to capture the views they desired. They worked with an Underwood whole plate camera and the results have a stunning clarity. They



The Abraham brothers were keen mountaineers who also went climbing in the Swiss Alps

used plates of particularly low emulsion and enlargements suffered virtually no loss in quality and have a sharpness that still draws admiration. It took time to set

up the shots for the four-second exposures, which frequently necessitated the brothers clinging motionless to the rock face. Their methods produced photo-

graphs of a standard never seen before.

The Abraham brothers were responsible for several innovations: they were the first to produce aerial photographs, from a Tiger Moth before the First World War, the first to produce scenic postcards in Britain, and among the first photographers to supply colour slides to *National Geographic* magazine in America.

Both Mayson and the Abrahams had studios in Lake Road, Keswick. The businesses passed down the respective families, but old age and retirement took their toll and both shops closed in the 1960s. Mayson's glass plates were found in the cellar of his studio, untouched for years.

Mr Smith said that news of the auction, which will be held at Retford in Nottinghamshire a week today, was spreading among photographic enthusiasts. "We expect a lot of interest next week," he added.

Five deny royal visit charges

More than 200 protesters gathered outside Aberystwyth Magistrates' Court yesterday as five Welsh students pleaded not guilty to public order offences during the Queen's visit to Wales in May. The five were remanded to appear again on December 12. T-shirts, bearing the Queen's inverted head and a slogan critical of the monarchy, are being sold by the Welsh Language Society to raise funds for the five's defence.

Ambulance taken

An ambulance was stolen while its crew helped a pregnant woman in Stevenage, Hertfordshire, in the early hours of Saturday. The woman had to wait 20 minutes before a replacement vehicle arrived. The thieves later crashed the ambulance.

Young on streets

Up to 8 per cent of people aged between 16 and 25 in some large towns are homeless, according to a survey carried out by the YMCA. The study found that 140,937 young people in Britain are without a home, while 315,743 have no permanent place to live.

Crowther funeral

Celebrities including comedian Ronnie Barker and comedy actress June Whitfield were among hundreds of mourners at the funeral of Leslie Crowther, the former game show host, near his home in Corston, Bath. Mr Crowther, 63, died last month.

Deer destroyed

A red deer which attacked two visitors at Knebworth Park, Hertfordshire, two weeks ago has been destroyed. The couple, who were injured when the stag struck them with its antlers, were treated in hospital for cuts and bruises to their legs.

Close call

A woman gave birth in a telephone kiosk four minutes after dialling for an ambulance when she went into labour. The 20-year-old delivered her own son as she waited in the kiosk in Melksham, Wiltshire. Both are doing well.

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Party's top ten will have an eye on the number one spot

The Tories are holding three separate, but overlapping, conferences in Bournemouth this week. The official one is intended to show that, after 17½ years in power, the Tories still have plenty of ideas on education, welfare reform, law and order etc for the "hard-working classes". By focusing on domestic policy, the Tories hope to demonstrate that they have plenty of substance to unveil, in contrast to the safety-first gloss of Labour. And they want to distract attention from "sleaze" allegations and the other two, less official conferences, on

Europe and the future Tory leadership. John Major's move to pre-empt conference speculation over the single currency by his article in *The Times* on Saturday may reduce the volume of dissent, but it will certainly not silence the sceptics. At least 11 fringe meetings will be devoted to Europe this week, featuring the familiar cast of characters. Despite the largely phoney squall over last night's *Panorama* programme, John Redwood is cannily seeking to emphasise points of agreement within the Tory party and differences with Labour, though few of

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

Kenneth Clarke's allies would agree. But others are likely to be less restrained in arguing that ruling out British involvement in a single currency the next Parliament is an election winner—even though it would be a Cabinet splitter.

But the conference will also be a beauty parade of potential successors to Mr Major. If the polls are right—and Mr Major had the last laugh in 1992—this could be his last conference as party leader. And loyal though his colleagues

now are, they are all setting out their stalls for the future, both on the fringe and in the main speeches from the platform. It will be rather like one of those non-binding caucus polls which the American parties hold in Florida or Louisiana nearly a year before election day, featuring up to a dozen candidates, serious and fringe. These polls are fun, but no guide to who will be picked.

The Tory field is equally wide now. At least ten leading Tories either regard themselves as candi-

dates or are mentioned as such—nearly half the Cabinet plus Mr Redwood. This week, all will try to establish the right credentials—in favour of a competitive rather than a social Europe, cool on a single currency, and with hints of radical ideas on rolling back the state and welfare reform. The most outspoken in their radicalism are likely to be those usually seen as loyal managers, such as Ian Lang and Gillian Shephard, or with a centre-left background like Stephen Dorrell. By contrast, established rightwingers, let alone Mr Redwood, have less to prove and will not want to be accused of

rocking the boat. There is no obvious frontrunner now since the Right is divided. In some cases bitterly, between supporters of Mr Redwood and Michael Portillo. None of the centre candidates has yet emerged from the pack. The MORI poll in *The Economist* showed that among Tory voters the three top candidates if the party loses the next election are Mr Major himself, Michael Heseltine and Baroness Thatcher, with everyone else trailing well behind. Similar polls in 1989, a year before the coup against Lady Thatcher, put Mr Major nowhere. So all will depend on how the

contenders perform between now and the general election. The extent of the Tory defeat (Mr Major will become Supreme Leader for Life, or at least another year or two, if the Tories win) and whether any lose their seats. The three candidates from Scotland—Mr Lang, Malcolm Rifkind and Michael Forsyth—have vulnerable seats. But if they survive, the final round of any Tory leadership contest could easily be between two of the three with Mr Forsyth the fast rising star of the Right.

PETER RIDDELL

McAlpine facing loss of the whip over defection

BY ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tories are preparing to remove the party whip from Lord McAlpine of West Green, the former party treasurer, in response to his high profile defection to the Referendum Party.

But Lord McAlpine vowed not to give up the whip without a fight. "I am still a Conservative. But on Europe the Referendum Party has got it right."

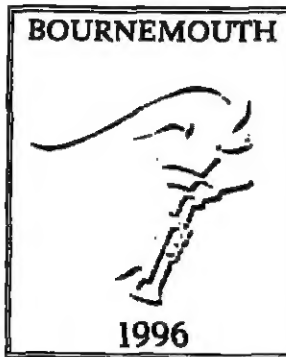
Lord McAlpine can technically remain on the Tory benches in the House of Lords until the party formally removes the whip. Many Tories at the party conference in Bournemouth dismissed the McAlpine move as a publicity stunt and believed he would return to the fold.

But the party high command has held back from threatening to expel members who follow in the footsteps of the close friend of Baroness Thatcher and go over to Sir James Goldsmith's party.

The Referendum Party was given another significant boost last night by the recruitment of Viscount Tonyand, the former Labour Speaker of the House of Commons.

Viscount Tonyand, 87, who sits on the crossbenches in the Lords as is the convention for former Speakers, has made a pre-recorded speech for the Referendum Party conference in Brighton, which Lord McAlpine will chair. He is unable to deliver it in person because he has to go into hospital for an operation.

Discussions were held with senior Tories at Bournemouth last night over Lord McAlpine's defection on the eve of the party conference



which was branded "treachery" by party activists.

One party source said: "Campaigning for another political party, which is putting up candidates against us, is not compatible with taking the Tory whip in the House of Lords. When Parliament resumes the situation will be reviewed."

A defiant Lord McAlpine, treasurer of the Tory Party under Lady Thatcher, said: "If the party wishes to remove the whip it is entirely a matter for them. I have no intention of getting into a slanging match with Conservative Central Office over whether I should or should not give it up."

"But I am surprised they think they can afford to lose any more supporters. They need every vote they can get." The defection of Lord McAlpine has underlined the deep tension between the Tory Party and the Goldsmith operation. Several key members of staff at the Referendum Party such as Greg Trew, the campaign manager, were former employees of Conservative Central Office.

Tory Party managers fear

that backing for the single-issue Referendum Party could prove fatal for Conservative MPs fighting in marginal seats where the billionaire financier is fielding candidates. "He could take a few hundred votes in key seats which is the difference between us holding on or losing the whole thing. But we are confident that party members who dally with Goldsmith will come back to us when the election of a Government, not a transient phenomenon."

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, challenged over whether Tory activists would be expelled for supporting the Referendum Party. He said: "I think the party should be inclusive and we would seek to help them understand there was not a successful future for Britain in behaving in that way. If they were to be tempted to transfer their vote, and I think very few will, but if they were, then clearly they would be aiding those other parties in favour of a federal Europe, which presumably they don't want."

But Tory officials made clear that membership of the Referendum Party was incompatible with continued membership of the Tory Party. "You cannot do both. It would be a matter for local associations how they would deal with it."

However, party managers are determined to avoid any confrontation with their members who support the aim of Sir James for a referendum on Europe. They want to avoid any further defections in the run-up to the election.

Howard prisons 'blunder'

BY JILL SHERMAN

ELEVEN of Britain's most dangerous criminals were among the 541 prisoners released early in August after a review of sentences by prison governors.

One of them had his sentence reduced by 2½ years, according to new information disclosed by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and between them the 541 were let out a total of nearly 150 years before the end of their sen-

tences. The figures, which were requested by Jack Straw, Shadow Home Secretary, show that 319 were serving sentences of 12 months to four years and 63 had sentences of four years or more.

Although there were big differences in the reductions in prisoners' sentences, Mr Howard's figures show that on average the men and women were released 100 days early. But three prisoners were set free by Richard Tilt, the director of the Prison

Service, nearly three years early.

Mr Straw said the analysis showed the full scale of last August's fiasco. Whatever Mr Howard, who speaks at the conference today, had to say, "nothing will fully raise his reputation for lurching incompetence in the running of the Prison Service. Of all the sorry sagas that have befallen Michael Howard as Home Secretary, the early release of 541 serial criminals by mistake is probably the worst blunder."

CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE AGENDA	
TUESDAY 8	EUROPE Sir Leon Brittan, EU Commissioner, will argue for a single currency at a fringe meeting. Leading sceptic John Redwood will preach the opposite to the Conservative 2000 Foundation. Lord Tebbit, Bill Cash, and David Heathcoat-Amory will address the European Foundation and Bruges Group.
WEDNESDAY 9	MANIFESTO John Major will lead a 60-minute question-and-answer session on a consultation document with the party faithful, <i>Future of the Nation</i> . The findings, intended to help to shape party policy, were overwhelmingly Euro-sceptic. But Major's critics will also be in the firing line.
THURSDAY 10	DEFENCE Michael Portillo will make a far more cautious speech than last year's attack on the EU, which won rapturous applause but caused deep offence in Europe and was disowned by defence chiefs. He will reply to a record number of motions criticising defence cuts.
FRIDAY 11	FUNDING Lord Parkinson will don the mantle normally worn by Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, who will be missing his first party conference in 20 years. Parkinson will warm up the activists with a barnstorming speech in support of John Major's leadership.
	AGRICULTURE Douglas Hogg, Agriculture Secretary, will try to defuse hostility from the conference floor over the common fisheries policy and the export ban on British beef. He will face anger from farming constituencies.
	CRIME Michael Howard will outline mandatory minimum jail terms for three-time house burglars and drug dealers. He faces criticism over plans for a voluntary rather than compulsory ID card, and over last month's higher figures for violent crime. But he will compete for one of the longest ovations of the week.
	EUROPE Malcolm Rifkind, facing 232 critical motions on the EU, will try to steady the party nerve after rows over monetary union. Party managers will try to stifle criticism from the floor by choosing the most anodyne motion for debate, and by to keep the most hostile sceptics away from the podium.
	ECONOMY Kenneth Clarke's avidly awaited speech could prove to be a disappointment. He will avoid the single currency debate, instead highlighting government successes on interest rates and the economy. His ovation will show whether the recent rumour over Europe damaged his standing.
	LEADER'S SPEECH John Major will try to rally the party behind a defence of the Government's record since 1992. He will appeal for party unity and outline Tory intentions for a fifth term of government.
	GENERAL ELECTION Former Chancellor Norman Lamont will speak at a Selection Group fringe meeting on how the Tories can win. The text of his speech will be studied for coded criticism of the Prime Minister on Europe.

Greer paid 'very generous' £5,000

BY ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR'S supporters paid the lobbyist Ian Greer £5,000 for the use of his office, equipment and car during the 1990 Tory leadership campaign. The Major team used three rooms in Mr Greer's Westminster offices and the sum, described by Mr Greer as "very generous", was to cover telephones, faxes, administration and petrol.

Brian Mawhinney, the Tory Party chairman, yesterday expressed support for Mr Greer's fund-raising for the party. In an interview in *The Times*, Mr Greer disclosed that he had raised £750,000 for the Tories over 10 years.

The lobbyist, who is at the heart of the cash-for-questions affair, was persuaded by William Hague, the Welsh Secretary tipped as a future Tory leader, to take the £5,000. Mr Major's supporters wanted to ensure that the leadership

campaign was seen to be "totally above board".

Mr Greer, who has stood down as chairman of his lobbying company, said: "I did not want to accept money from the Tories. But William Hague was very persuasive. I told him I thought the sum was too generous. He insisted I took it to ensure that everything was above board. I am very glad today that I took his advice."

Mr Hague, who was a recently elected MP at the time, was a key figure in the Major leadership campaign. He also persuaded Alan Duncan, who was elected MP for Rutland and Melton in 1992, to allow his house in Westminster to be used as the campaign headquarters. Sources close to Mr Major's 1990 leadership campaign said that every penny spent on his behalf was scrupulously



Hague described as very persuasive

accounted for. Mr Duncan's bill came to £4,000, which included the cost of new carpets and six designated telephone lines.

Dr Mawhinney said that he had no regrets about Mr Greer's fund-raising. He told BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme: "Businesses give money to all parties and if he has been helping to encourage people to do that over the years, then clearly that's been of benefit to the party. I don't regret it, not least because Mr Blair said last week there was nothing improper about any of this and I agree with him."

MI5 crime team to start work

BY VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

MI5 officers will next week begin intelligence operations against international criminals operating in Britain.

The start date is expected to be officially announced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, in his speech to the Conservative Party conference today. He announced his intention to change the law to create an intelligence-led force to combat organised crime at last year's conference.

A small MI5 team, including women, has been designated to conduct work "in support of the police and other enforcement agencies". An MI5 officer has been seconded to the National Criminal Intelligence Agency to liaise between police and the Security Service.

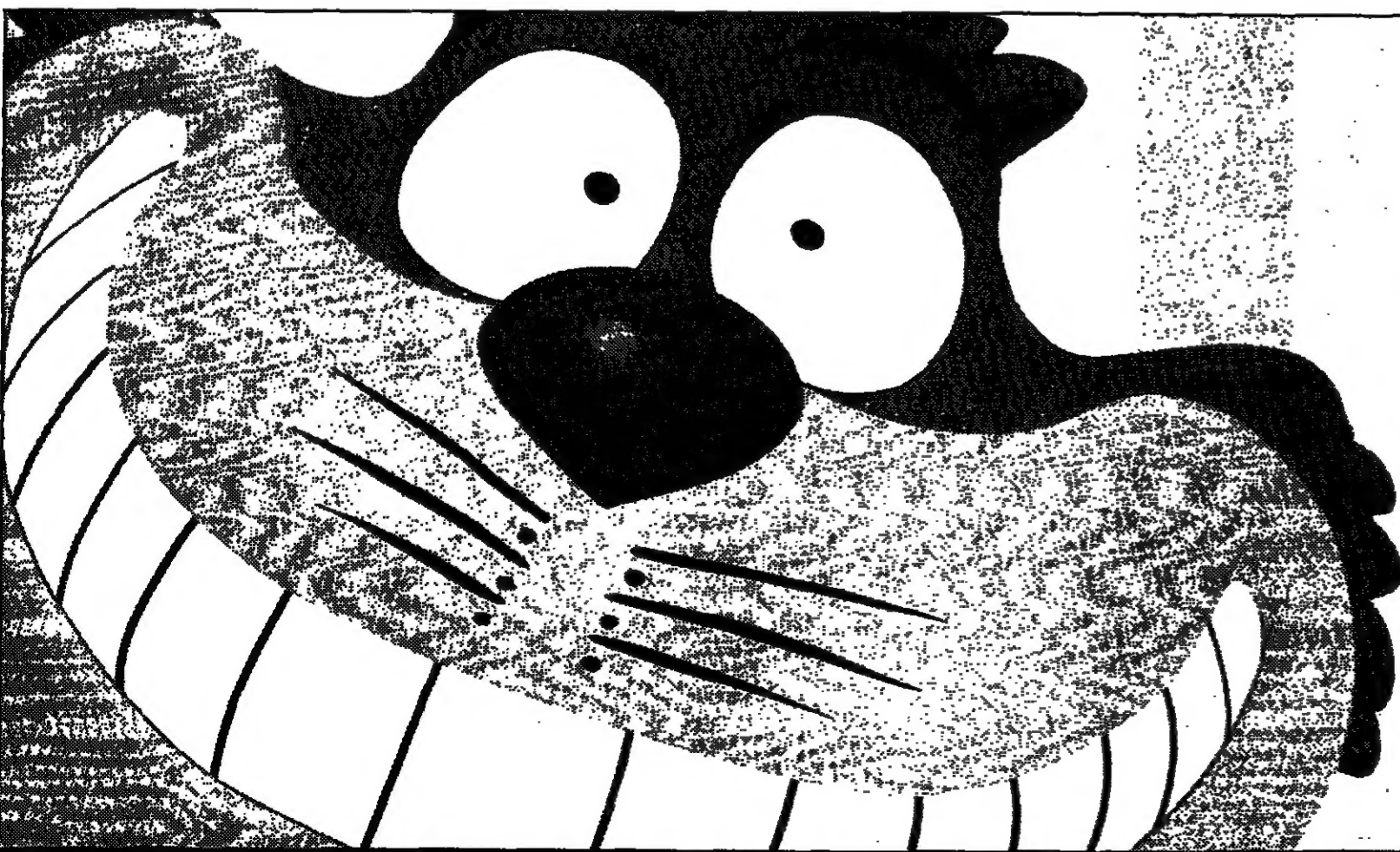
The fight against terrorism will remain the priority for MI5, but its most sophisticated intelligence-gathering

methods and analytical skills will now also be deployed against international crime organisations.

Drug barons, money-lenders, arms dealers and the criminals masterminding immigration rackets will now come under the scrutiny of MI5 officers, who will work on information supplied by police.

The working arrangements have hit a number of stumbling-blocks, however, and negotiations between MI5, police and Customs and Excise have been going on for weeks. A Whitehall source said last night: "There was probably a bit of a culture shock on both sides."

It is understood that one of the main arguments concerned the police hierarchy and whether police officers had to address MI5 officers as Sir or Ma'am.



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German budget cuts threaten to put Eurofighter contracts into a spin

GERMANY'S stampede to meet the public spending targets for economic and monetary union is threatening to delay plans to produce the Eurofighter and is sowing new tension between the defence ministries in Bonn and Paris.

Detailed figures leaked yesterday by defence industry sources show how stark the problem of Eurofighter funding has become for the Germans. On Thursday the parliamentary budget committee will discuss the controversial fighter project — a joint operation by Britain, Germany, Italy and Spain — but it seems unlikely to bridge

Strapped for cash by the dash for monetary union, German defence planners risk offending France, Roger Boyes reports from Bonn

Defence Minister — a late and somewhat grudging convert to the Eurofighter — made no financial provision at all for the so-called procurement investment phase in 1997.

This means money to acquire the machinery and to adapt the prototype for mass production. After months of scratching around for

cash, German defence planners have come up with around DM100 million (€40 million) for 1997, rising to DM350 million in 1998 and DM600 million in 1999. But that is a long way short of the funding deemed necessary by the main contractor, Daimler Benz Aerospace (DASA). DASA reckons that DM392 million must be made

available for 1997, rising to DM1,160 million in 1999. Even those figures would entail the German Government negotiating a one-year delay in the first wave of deliveries. The current schedule for Eurofighter is that preparation and production will begin on January 1 next year and run until 2014, with the first deliveries coming at the end of 2001. Germany has signalled its readiness to buy 180 of the planes while Britain intends to buy 232.

The whole deal could start to unravel, however, if there are serious delays. Postponing delivery would push up the price. The alternative — to come up with a radically slimmer Eurofighter that could be encompassed within a tight budget — would require new negotiations with Britain on how to share out the workload.

The Eurofighter has haunted Herr Röhre from the very beginning. Conceived 11 years ago as an ultra-modern fighter capable of out-maneuvring Soviet MiG 29s and Sukhois, the Eurofighter has become a nightmare of multinational co-operation.

Herr Röhre is now threatening to withdraw from the building of a joint spy satellite with the French because he needs the money for Eurofighter and for the future European transport plane. The minister argues that since the German army is not a global force it has no pressing need for a satellite "that can inform us about activities conducted behind every sand dune in Chad".

But the satellite has become a symbol of Franco-German armaments co-operation and Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, who has promised President Chirac that it will go ahead, is insisting that the money be found.

DUSAN VRANIC

Yeltsin's former aide accused of extorting £25m

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

THE threat of a huge political scandal hung over Russia yesterday after President Yeltsin's close friend and former chief bodyguard was accused of heading a "state racket" in the Kremlin involved in extortion, corruption and even possibly attempted murder.

According to Boris Fyodorov, the former head of the National Sports Fund, General Aleksandr Korzhakov, who was one of the most powerful men in Russia until his sacking in June, tried to extort \$40 million (£25 million), a quarter of it in cash. Mr Fyodorov narrowly escaped an assassination attempt the day before the general was dismissed.

The allegations on the influential television programme *Izvestiya* on Sunday night also directly touch another close friend of Mr Yeltsin, Shamil Tarpishchev, who was the President's tennis coach and doubles partner and also the link-man between General Korzhakov and Mr Fyodorov. It was reported last night that Mr Tarpishchev had been sacked as presidential sports adviser.

The timing of the interview had the clear political aim of undermining General Korzhakov's hopes of making a political comeback. He has said he wants to stand for parliament and has hinted that he is working with General Aleksandr Lebed, the sec-

urity chief, another target of *Izvestiya's* political agenda. General Korzhakov was the leading hawk in the Kremlin, credited with controlling a vast security apparatus of 12,000 men and having a malign influence on Mr Yeltsin.

Mr Fyodorov told the programme how he was chosen by Mr Tarpishchev to head the National Sports Fund, a supposedly charitable body which became a multimillion-dollar earner after it was granted a monopoly to import duty-free alcohol. But he then became too independent for his patrons' liking.

In May he was called to the Kremlin by General Korzhakov and had his Kremlin pass confiscated. The general then presented him with a stack of papers alleging that he had stolen \$300 million from the fund and said: "You stole so much, you should share some of it. Give us \$40 million."

According to Mr Fyodorov, General Valeri Strelets, General Korzhakov's deputy, then demanded \$10 million in cash the same day and \$30 million in a bank transfer.

General Strelets had said: "You must understand that we are a state racket and you are trying to stop the steamroller of the state machine which is rolling towards you."

Mr Fyodorov said he did not raise the money. He was sacked from his job, which

was then taken by General Strelets. On May 22 he was briefly arrested on suspicion of possessing cocaine and then on June 18 he almost died after he was stabbed 12 times by a mysterious attacker.

He stopped short of blaming the attack directly on General Korzhakov, but said: "They didn't manage to use me. If they had used me, maybe today I wouldn't have 12 holes in my body."

By tarnishing the reputation of his closest friends, the allegations will be an intense embarrassment for Mr Yeltsin, although no one has suggested that he was aware of what was going on.

The allegations follow the publication of the transcript of a conversation between Mr Fyodorov and three unnamed people in the newspaper *Novaya Gazeta* in July, in which Mr Tarpishchev was portrayed as a gangster with links to the mafia. Among other allegations, he was said to have persuaded the President to sign a decree allowing the sale of two tonnes of gold through the fund.

Yeltsin move: President Yeltsin was moved into a sanatorium from the Central Clinical Hospital yesterday before heart open surgery scheduled for next month. His doctors said his condition was "quite satisfactory".

The prophet ignored, page 15



General Aleksandr Lebed at Nato headquarters in Brussels yesterday with General Klaus Neumann, chairman of the alliance's military committee

Lebed urges Nato to delay eastern expansion

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

RUSSIA would like Nato to wait for a generation before deciding whether to take in members from the former Communist bloc, General Aleksandr Lebed, chief of President Yeltsin's Security Council, said yesterday.

On his first foray abroad, apart from his Soviet war service in Afghanistan, the general gave Nato chiefs a mixed message over his stance on enlarging the alliance. "Whatever Nato decides, Russia is not immediately going into hysterics," he said after meeting Javier Solana, the Nato Secretary-General. However, he made clear that his

country insisted on a legally binding say on the process of enlargement and was strongly opposed to the speed at which Nato is planning to expand the 16-member alliance. Nato aims to offer invitations next spring to Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic and possibly Slovenia, with membership envisaged two years later.

"I proposed today to put off the question of whether Nato should enlarge or not and let the next generation decide," General Lebed said. "We are all the products of the years of the Cold War. A mentality built up over decades cannot be effaced in a day."

Nato ambassadors said they were

impressed by the gruff general's smooth diplomatic style. "He didn't speak like an outsider. He told us, 'I talk to all colours in the Russian rainbow and I can tell you that this is the view across the spectrum,'" a senior European envoy said.

General Lebed, who only last week threatened Russian retaliation against the West if the alliance enlarged, told the ambassadors that "the threatening remarks that have been attributed to me is not the way I see Nato."

Clearly revelling at his visit to the nerve centre of what Soviet officers termed the "imperialist military machine", the general insisted that Nato sign a legally binding treaty with

Russia as a prelude to enlargement. He indicated Moscow wanted a virtual power of veto over the entry of new members. Nato wants to draw up a convention defining its new links with Russia at the same time as negotiating the first eastern admissions.

A precipitate shift eastward by the alliance could trigger hostility that prevents the Russian parliament from ratifying the second strategic arms limitation accord (Start II) and even throw into question the conventional forces and other past arms reduction treaties, he said. Señor Solana welcomed the "rational and civilised manner" in which General Lebed had discussed enlargement.

Paris squanders public funds while preaching austerity

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government preaches economic austerity while it wastes taxpayers' money at a phenomenal rate on useless projects and fails to pay its own bills on time, according to a report released yesterday by the official accounting office.

In its annual survey, the Court of Accounts, France's main public-spending watchdog, laid out a catalogue of financial mismanagement by the state, including a £14 million airstrip in Antarctica that is used only by flightless penguins and an unpaid telephone bill for £260 million.

The report also cited the problem-plagued Superphénix nuclear reactor, costing Fr60 billion (£8 billion) that has operated for only one year in the past 20, and the spending of £53 million on a new computerised ticketing system for the state-owned railway despite dwindling rail traffic.

The report could not come at a worse time for the Government of Alain Juppé, as it faces another wave of strikes over

spending cuts and austerity policies aimed at reducing the country's deficit in time for Economic and Monetary Union.

"Our money flies out of the window," declared *France-Soir* yesterday.

The costly airstrip built at Terre Adélie in western Antarctica has caused particular outrage. Completed in 1993 after seven years' work, the strip has never been used, according to *Liberation* newspaper. The Environment Ministry has banned planes from landing there in winter because it is a breeding ground for penguins and other rare birds and the rest of the year the strip is unusable due to the weather conditions.

The watchdog also questioned the "usefulness and durability" of the reactor built at Creys-Malville on the Swiss border, which has swallowed enough state cash to pay off this year's entire projected welfare debt. It became a research centre last year.

Civil servants, doctors and

rail workers will join in a strike on October 17 in opposition to austerity measures.

Despite mounting protest and internal divisions, M Juppé made a television appearance at the weekend in which he ruled out an early election or a reshuffle. But with unemployment still rising, the Gaullist Prime Minister's approval rating fell to 27 per cent last week, an all-time low.

While the Government was insisting that voters must tighten their belts, yet another expensive project received approval. The authorities agreed to the building of an underground rail system in Rennes, the capital of Brittany, for nearly £400 million. Rennes will become one of the smallest cities in the world to have its own metro system.

Blast claim: Corsican terrorists yesterday claimed responsibility for the bomb which ripped through M Juppé's mayoral office in Bordeaux on Saturday night.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israeli MPs expelled in stormy debate

Jerusalem: Two deputies were expelled from the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, after stormy scenes during a debate on the recent violence in which 74 people died (Christopher Walker writes). Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, was heckled as he attacked Palestinians for using violence in order to exert diplomatic pressure. Letters, page 17

'Gang' man free

Peking: Yao Wenyan, 65, the propagandist of the "Gang of Four" led by Mao Tse-tung's wife, Jiang Qing, during the 1966-76 Chinese Cultural Revolution, has been set free after 20 years in prison. (AP)

Democratic gulf

Men voting in Kuwait for a new National Assembly were hounded by women demanding equal rights (Michael Dynes writes). Only 100,000 of Kuwait's two million people are eligible to vote.

Dead end

Brisbane: Two Australian men who stole a car dumped it after finding a dead body on the back seat. They then guided Cairns police to the man, believed to be the victim of a drug overdose. (Reuters)

Liquor kills 30

Delhi: Thirty people died after drinking homemade liquor laced with varnish and methyl alcohol in Tamil Nadu. Most were quarry workers who stopped at a kiosk near the town of Pudukottai. (AFP)

Princess favourite to marry Spain's Felipe

Madrid: Princess Tatiana of Liechtenstein, 22, described by royal aides as "simple, discreet and elegant", has emerged as clear front-runner among candidates to marry Crown Prince Felipe of Spain, now 29 (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The only daughter of Prince Hans Adam and Princess Maria of Liechtenstein, she

speaks fluent Spanish and commands an immense fortune. She is also a Roman Catholic, essential for a future Queen of Spain. Observers believe that Prince Felipe's alleged romance with the American, Giselle "Gigi" Howard, is over. It is thought that she did not measure up to Queen Sofia's exacting standards.



Tatiana: fluent Spanish

Ailing Pope's tremor adds to operation fears

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Pope will undergo an operation for the removal of his appendix this morning after a day of medical tests yesterday, Vatican doctors said.

Professor Francesco Cruciani, who is carrying out the operation at the Gemelli Hospital in Rome, said the Pope was "well and tranquil". But the Italian media focused on the possibility that he is also

suffering from Parkinson's disease. At Sunday's beatification ceremony on St Peter's Square, the Pope's left hand trembled violently. He has suffered from a trembling hand for some time but, as *La Stampa* noted yesterday, the shaking was far worse than usual.

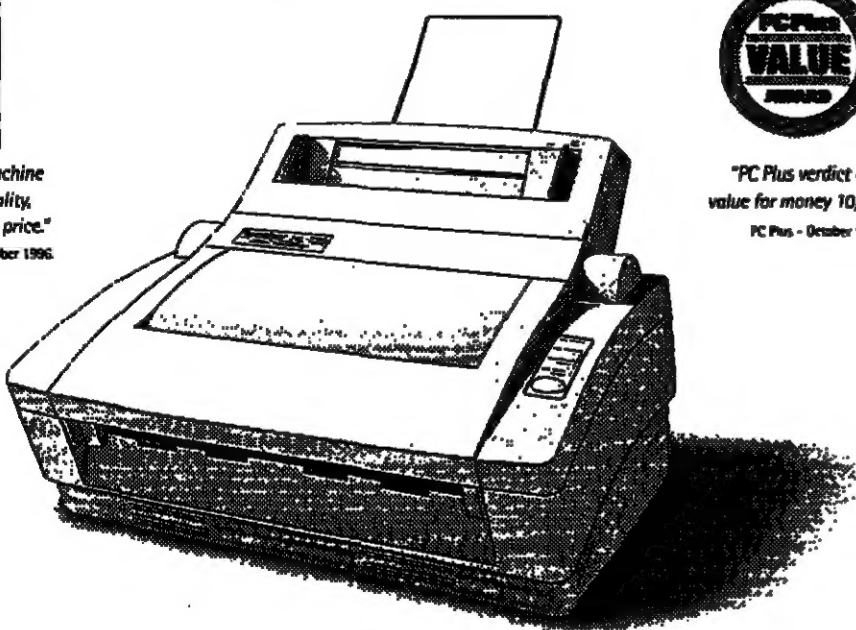
La Repubblica said it was disturbing that there was no "deputy Pope" to take charge of the Vatican if necessary. The newspaper said Cardinal Angelo Sodano, the Secretary of State, was nominally in

charge of day-to-day affairs, together with Cardinal Eduardo Martínez Somalo, the Treasurer to the Holy See. Cardinal Bernardin Gantin of Benin, a leading African candidate for the papacy, would chair any emergency conclave as Dean of the Sacred College of Cardinals.

Doctors at the hospital said that Professor Cruciani would probably carry out the appendectomy by making an incision, rather than by keyhole surgery, or laparoscopy.



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Taleban rattled by warlord's offer to aid fugitive leader

THE Afghan military scales tilted abruptly yesterday when General Abdul Rashid Dostum, the powerful Uzbek warlord who controls six northern provinces, demanded that Taleban Islamic militia halt their bombardment of vanquished government forces.

He said he would come to the aid of his Tajik "compatriots" fighting for their lives in the Panjshir Valley, their traditional homeland. This upsets Taleban's calculations: its forces would stand no chance against both General Dostum and the Tajik forces of General Ahmed Shah Masood.

The siege of the Panjshir has lost some of its steam. Tanks and artillery pummeled the valley yesterday but there were no fighters on the narrow road that carves through it. The main action was on the mountaintops, where Taleban forces seized some strategic peaks. But the Islamic army has not penetrated more than a few miles into the 50-mile valley in its three-day push.



Christopher Thomas writes in Kabul that General Dostum's threat to intervene has upset the holy warriors' plans

Taleban commanders must be reassessing their prospects of routing General Masood now that General Dostum has hinted at an alliance with him. This is classic Afghan military opportunism. General Dostum knows that if General Masood were defeated, he would be the next target. Taleban issued a statement last night warning General Dostum not to come to the ousted government's aid.

Many wounded men are being carried away from the battlefield at the mouth of the Panjshir. General Masood's besieged forces seem to be conserving most of their firepower. They may be waiting for Taleban's fighters to penetrate deeper into the valley

before cutting their supply lines and picking them off with snipers — a tactic that devastated troops of the former Soviet Union in the 1980s.

This may explain Taleban's cautious advance after two initial days of intensive shelling to establish a presence at the mouth of the valley. The weather is worsening rapidly and snow is falling on some of the peaks. In a month or so Taleban will find it hard to sustain high-level fighting.

If General Masood can hold on until then he may be secure for the winter. The valley has ample stocks of food and its people are accustomed to the harsh climate — more so than most of the attackers.

A Pakistani delegation arrived in Uzbekistan last night to discuss ways of preventing fighting between Taleban and General Dostum, who receives military aid from the former Soviet republic. For all its denials, Pakistan has co-operated in the rise of the Tale-



A Taleban soldier loads a shell into a rocket launcher as the militants pummel ousted government forces along the Panjshir Valley frontline

ban army, which now controls three-quarters of Afghanistan. The Uzbek warlord's vow to prevent further advances by Taleban was welcomed in the dusty bazaars of Mazar-e-Sharif in north Afghanistan. "Of course, all of us are happy

that someone has stood up to the Taleban and especially those of us women who work," said Sherna, a gynaecologist. "I've spent six years training to be a doctor, but if Taleban enter this city I will not be allowed to work. Afghanistan

needs peace most of all, but not a Taleban peace made by the Pashtuns for the Pashtuns. We will support our general even if it means fighting," she added.

Pashtuns, viewed as a "southern" tribe by northern-

ers, overthrew the Afghan king in the 1920s and established a reign of terror in the north. Uzbeks and Tajiks later regained control of their areas, but speak of the time of Pashtun dominance as though it were yesterday.

Divine rulers free canaries and ban chess

BY CHRISTOPHER THOMAS

CAGED birds have been outlawed by Afghanistan's new Taleban rulers. Pet canaries now flutter hungrily about Kabul, the capital, waiting to die in the fast-approaching winter, and myna birds bred in captivity sit bewildered and starving in the trees. "Canaries are banned because they sing," an Afghan cynic said.

Taleban is rule-crazy. It uses Kabul radio or soldiers on the street to convey instructions governing everything from the length of a man's shirt-sleeve to the day he will next be allowed to trim his beard. The rule against television extends to videos and music.

There are 33 days to go before men will be allowed to trim their beards under a 45-day rule introduced when the Taleban Islamic militia took over.

The rules say people will be stoned to death for drinking alcohol or using drugs, for having an affair or for committing murder. A hand will be amputated for stealing. Men are not supposed to wear Western-style clothes. Shirts and trousers, which used to be popular, have all but disappeared. Men are covering their arms down to the wrist under the strict Taleban sartorial code.

Men have been told to attend mosque five times a day and their names are taken by the mosque shura (council) to ensure compliance. Come 4.30 am, the streets are full of bleary-eyed men following the muezzin's call.

Families have been told to order women to pray five times a day, although females are banned from mosques. Card games and chess are against the rules because they are said to encourage gambling, which is outlawed.

There are no wedding parties any more: people assume they are banned. Without music they would be dreary affairs anyway. Women have been beaten on the street for simply being there, regardless of whether they are veiled, because of a rule confining them to the house except when shopping.

A married couple riding on the same bicycle on the way to the market were beaten for being physically too close in public. A butcher had two fingers chopped off for selling meat above the price decreed by Taleban. The Islamic rulers expect shop owners to leave their premises unlocked at night to prove how secure the city is.

The rules require government employees to sign on for work every day, even though there is no government and no work. They are waiting to see if their October salaries are paid.

Taleban's obsession with rules became clear after its forces captured the southern city of Kandahar, now its headquarters, a year ago. Soon after the invasion, women there told me that they were outraged at being banned from using the city's ancient public baths.

Given their cramped living conditions, no woman could have a hot bath any more.

Television sets were smashed — something that has not happened yet in Kabul. The invaders banned football, the most popular sport locally, because it was "un-Islamic".

□ Tehran: Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual guide, accused the United States of supporting Taleban and denounced the brand of Islam practised by the Afghan militia. (AFP)

A married couple on a bicycle were beaten for being too close

Turkish mission to Gaddafi backfires

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

NECMETTIN ERBAKAN, Turkey's Islamist Prime Minister, was urged to step down after his controversial attempts to boost ties with Muslim countries suffered a setback with a resounding diplomatic slap in the face from Colonel Muammar Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

Sitting alongside a dismayed Mr Erbakan at a press conference, Colonel Gaddafi told his guest it was time a Kurdish state was created. He also condemned Turkey's close links with the West and its Nato membership. Mr Erbakan retorted: "We don't have a Kurdish problem, we have a terrorist problem."

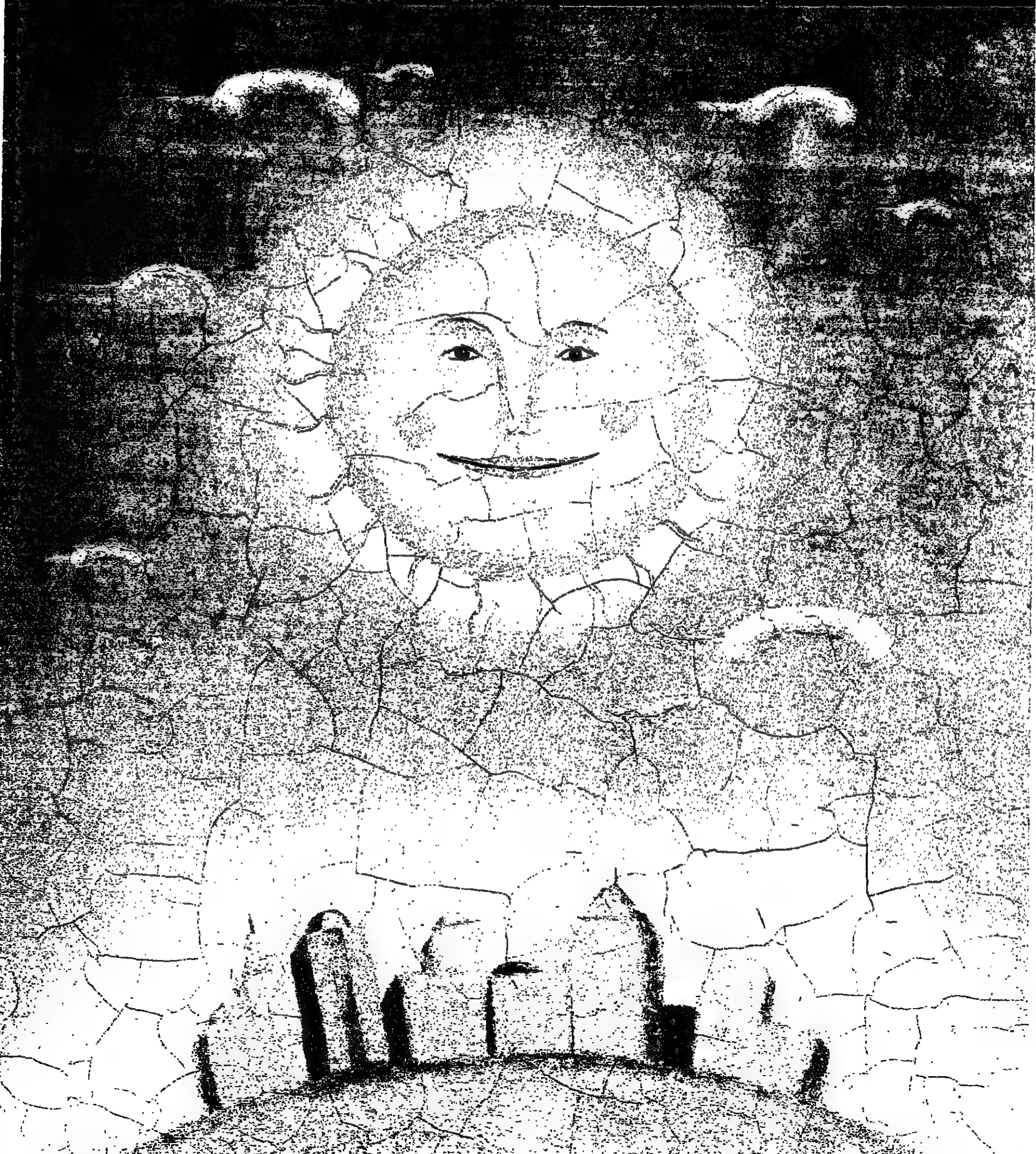
Y. Mesut Yilmaz, leader of the main opposition Motherland Party, told the Turkish news agency: "Mr Erbakan should return to Turkey without wasting any time. He should go straight from the airport to Cankaya [the presidential palace] and submit his resignation."

Instead of flying home, Mr Erbakan left for Nigeria, also ostracised by the West and the last stop on an African trip that began in Egypt last week.

Commentators in Turkey's secularist media have accused Mr Erbakan, who appalled Washington by visiting Iran in August, of operating a parallel policy to the Turkish Foreign Ministry, which had advised him not to go to Libya. "The trip has turned into a competition in insulting Turkey," *Hurriyet*, the mass circulation daily newspaper, said.

High-level visitors are rare in Libya, subject to United Nations sanctions over the Lockerbie bombing. Mr Erbakan clearly expected better treatment from Colonel Gaddafi who touched Turkey's rawest nerve by condemning its Kurdish policy. Calling for a Kurdish state is illegal in Turkey, which has been fighting separatists for 12 years.

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Silver-tongued Clinton beats warm and witty Dole

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON



Dole: "I wouldn't violate anything my mother said"

PRESIDENT CLINTON remained firmly on course for re-election yesterday after Bob Dole failed to achieve the breakthrough he desperately needed in the first of the two crucial presidential debates on Sunday night.

Most analysts said the 73-year-old Republican managed no more than a draw. That was no mean feat against a silver-tongued President, but scarcely sufficient for a candidate trailing by double digits a month before polling day.

Instant polls for ABC, CBS and Newsweek suggested Mr Clinton "won". They made him the victor by 50 per cent to 30, 50 to 28 and 49 to 25 respectively, with 92 per cent telling CBS the 90-minute encounter in Hartford, Connecticut, had not changed their vote.

The debate, watched by roughly 70 million Americans, also removed Mr Dole from the campaign trail for a week of rehearsals, but he did achieve one thing. He almost certainly showed enough grit to prevent a mass desertion by Republican congressional candidates and a threatened switch of party resources from the presidential race into the battle to hold Congress. Mr Dole "successfully represented



ELECTION '96

our viewpoint", Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said. The debate consisted of two very familiar men tussling over very familiar themes, though Mr Dole did manage to display the warmer, wittier side of his often dark demeanour. His only stunt was to seat

Viewers prefer sport

Charleston: It was a small group that had gathered around the television at the Griffon, a favourite haunt among the ale aficionados of this South Carolina town (Tom Rhodes writes). The first presidential debate was unable to compete with either the local jazz festival or, more importantly, the key play-off between the Minnesota Vi-

king and the Carolina Panthers. Most locals had left before the candidates took to the stage.

"This is a politically motivated town," said Steve Mullins, an editor on *The Post and Courier*, "but with Clinton having such a lead and the Panthers playing great football, I guess people have given up this year."

Billy Dale, the central figure in the "Travelgate" scandal, in the front row to disconcert the President.

Mr Dole portrayed Mr Clinton as an inveterate "big government" liberal, repeatedly reminding viewers of his 1993 tax increases and the hugely bureaucratic health-care system he sought to introduce. He painted a bleak picture of a nation afflicted by drugs, economic stagnation and diminished international stature. "The truth is, there's a lot wrong with America."

Mr Clinton calmly dismissed the "liberal charge" as a "golden oldie" Republicans always dragged out when desperate. He endlessly recited his first-term achievements — ten million new jobs, a deficit halved, falling crime and welfare beneficiaries — and appealed for four more years to complete America's recovery. "It is not midnight in America," he told Mr Dole. "We are better off than we were four years ago."

The President portrayed Mr Dole as an extremist who would wreck the economy with his tax-cut plan while slashing Medicare — the health insurance programme for the elderly — and other cherished social programmes.

Mr Dole responded by accusing Mr Clinton of needlessly scaring America's pensioners. "I am not some extremist out here. I care about people," he insisted. "I used to go home and my mother would tell me, 'Bob, all I've got's my Social Security and my Medicare. Don't cut it. I wouldn't violate anything my mother said.'"



Clinton: "It is not midnight in America. We're better off"

Trenchant critic of President turns firepower on Blair

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

ONE of President Clinton's most trenchant critics, *The Wall Street Journal*, yesterday turned its firepower on Tony Blair, the Labour Party leader, for sharing the Democratic Party's worst failings.

The *Journal's* editorial column accused both Democrats and New Labour of disguising a left-wing agenda with misleadingly moderate language, and of lacking clear policies on the most important issues. "If voters now favour the New Labourites, we suspect it is not because of who they are, but because they aren't who they used to be," the newspaper says. "At the end of the day, Mr Blair's agenda is a shallow pond indeed."

With the Conservative Party's electoral prospects looking to some as dismal as those of Bob Dole, the Republican challenger, Mr Clinton's critics are waking up to the possibility that left-of-centre governments will be in power next year on both sides of the Atlantic. They claim that policies favouring big government and hurting the middle class could be reintroduced by the back door.

Although the *Journal* has been among his more extreme critics, it is appealing to widespread uncertainty about the Clinton agenda, raising the spectre that, if Mr Clinton wins, "Clinton replicates" may "suddenly emerge to lead left-wing parties around the globe".

To the *Journal*, "the similarities between British and American politics are remarkable". It compliments Labour on ridding itself of the "loony Left", just as the Democratic Party has silenced its most outspoken liberals in an attempt to court the middle class.

But it adds: "If Mr Blair deserves praise for such discipline, it is not the kind that goes to a man of ideas ready to lead his country into the next century." The newspaper

detects a host of Clinton-like contradictions in New Labour's policies, such as Mr Blair's pledge to cut unemployment while introducing a national minimum wage.

The *Journal* has also detected echoes of President Clinton in Mr Blair's promise to spend more on health and education, but to scrap schemes such as school vouchers and assisted places at independent schools.

Above all, it accuses New Labour, like the Democrats, of having few clear commitments. "An astute observer of American politics, Mr Blair has seen Mr Clinton's success at not being either George Bush or Jimmy Carter. Mr Blair says he wants to prepare Britain for the next 1,000 years, but judging from his 'not-the-Tories' strategy, Labour's forward look doesn't

extend much beyond the next election." To New Labour, such attacks stretch the undeniable parallels too far. Mr Blair and his advisers are open about their use of America as an "ideas factory", particularly on welfare and tax reform.

New Labour advisers make clear, however, that much of what passes for left-wing debate in America is too far to the right to be palatable to them. Supply-side doctrine — tax cuts to stimulate economic growth — form no part of their agenda. They have also been repelled by the Republican-backed Bill to cut federal welfare spending which was recently signed by Mr Clinton.

Labour is well aware that as the *Journal* puts it, "for voters on both sides of the Atlantic, committing themselves to be led into the 21st century by either of these baby-boom politicians will require no small leap of faith". But the comfort for New Labour is that, if American voters make that leap on November 5, it may encourage the British public to do the same.

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2 TODAY



Back in black: the world's heaviest band, Metallica
PAGES 33-35



The student protesters who won't go away
PAGES 37-39



Athletes make tracks for rugby union
PAGES 42-48

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
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TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 1996

Banks throw Eurotunnel £4.7bn lifeline

THE DEAL DETAIL

Industry output down in August

BUSINESS TODAY

London close..... \$380.65 (\$380.45)
* denotes midday trading price

Shell and Texaco plan \$10bn link-up

Tempus, page 28

Caspian seeks new home for Paddington Bear

Clark sues for £3m from BET

Botnar strikes £59m deal with 'draconian' Revenue

outstanding. It is separately appealing in a dispute over £60 million in tax purportedly owed by Mr Botnar in relation to a charitable trust. Nissan

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Banks to tackle secrecy

The world's leading central banks have taken a significant step forward in lifting the veil of secrecy that has permeated many areas of international banking.

Until now, secretive domestic banking laws combined with the lack of a coherent policy for cross-border co-operation between supervisors has made it difficult to track the flow of criminal funds and to watch for early warning signals of problems within satellite banking operations, such as happened within the Singapore office of Barings.

A two-part report, *The Supervision of Cross-Border Banking*, published by the Basle Committee of Banking Supervision and the Offshore Group of Banking, contains 29 key recommendations. These go further to break down the communication barriers between watchdogs than any previous attempts.

At one level the report aims to strengthen the effectiveness of the supervision by home and host country authorities of banks which operate outside their national boundaries. On another level, however, the Basle Committee, which comprises senior central bank representatives from the Group of Ten countries, has put forward a proposal to tackle the secrecy laws which hamper many international operations.

Hyundai expands

About 700 jobs are to be created in Scotland by Hyundai, the Korean electronics company, which is to build two plants in a £900 million investment at Halbeath, near Dunfermline, Fife.

Hyundai's investment in the region marks the culmination of years of diplomatic efforts by the British Embassy in Seoul, the Korean capital. The embassy had been cultivating Hyundai for several years when the company approached diplomats with the proposal.



Jamie Borwick, right, with Bill Gillespie, finance director, sees the "feel-good" factor showing in increased use of taxis

Demand at cabmaker accelerates

By FRASER NELSON

THE "feel-good" factor is returning to Britain's taxi ranks, according to Manganese Bronze Holdings, which yesterday said that new-found prosperity across inner-cities was fueling record demand for its classic black cabs.

The company lifted its average weekly production from 52 to 60 during the year to July 31, taking pre-tax profits to £6.2 million (£4.2 million).

Jamie Borwick, chief executive, said output was now 68 cabs per week. "In the recession, people would just use the tube, but they are now very much more willing to hail a cab, and this is directly lifting our sales," he said.

Taxable profits rose by 56 per cent to £1.29 million, helping earnings from 15.5p to 26.8p per share. A final dividend of 4.5p makes a total of 31.3p. The shares rose 19p yesterday, to 367½p.

Builders confirm upturn and operate nearer to capacity

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE building industry yesterday confirmed the recovery in the housing market as construction companies reported an improvement in business and in particular a sharp increase in capacity utilisation.

The findings of the building industry's principal quarterly state of trade survey will be welcomed by ministers and business leaders, who are awaiting with particular interest the results of the latest three-monthly studies of industry as key guides to the position of business before next month's Budget.

While building industry leaders insisted on injecting a note of caution in interpreting the results of the latest quarterly survey from the Building Employers' Confederation on the grounds that the improvements it signalled only went some way towards counterbalancing the depth of the double recession which has hit construction in the UK in the 90s, they accepted the survey marked a widening of recovery in the industry.

The BEC's October survey of 600 construction companies showed that output rose about 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, with employment expectations in the industry "at last" starting to pick up.

Seven out of 12 regions expect to see rising employment over the next three months, with a balance of 19

per cent of firms forecasting more jobs, compared with a balance of 4 per cent in the last quarter reporting jobs still declining. Firms across the survey reported increases in skill shortages.

The survey's most striking finding was a sharp rise in capacity utilisation. The proportion of firms working at or near full capacity is up from 29

per cent in the last quarter to 45 per cent now — the highest level since late 1989.

With an improving success rate in tenders, optimism in the industry is rising. Three fifths of firms now expecting a sustained increase in activity over the next 12 months.

Citing a genuine return of confidence across the industry, Paul Shephard, BEC chairman, said: "There are definitely some encouraging signs in these results which go some way towards lifting the gloom that has affected the construction industry over such a long period."

He said he remained seriously concerned that many smaller firms, and companies in a number of regions, were so far not sharing in the improvements in the industry.

Mr Shephard called for action in the Budget by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that would lead to the sustained recovery across the whole of the economy, which had so far proved elusive.

New challenge to BT cuts

By ERIC REGULY

THE telephone wars escalated yesterday when the two largest cable companies slashed their prices in an effort to remain competitive with BT's new tariffs, which come into effect today.

TeleWest Communications is dropping its prices to maintain its claimed 10 per cent to 15 per cent savings over BT's prices. Nynex CableComms followed suit, saying its new prices are 25 per cent cheaper than BT's.

Nynex said the prices for national daytime calls fell from 7.34p to 6.6p a minute, compared with BT's 8.8p. BT has reduced the price of

evening and night-time national calls by 20 per cent, while daytime national calls fell 20 per cent. In September, it cut international weekend charges by between 5 per cent and 23 per cent, and weekday calls by between 10 per cent and 25 per cent. It is aiming its price reductions, which are imposed by OfTel, the industry regulator, at the residential sector.

□ Energis, the telecoms company owned by the National Grid, said it is to reduce business call charges to the US to 10p a minute from Thursday.

Burford starts third demerger in a year

By NOEL FUNG

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the property investment company, embarked on its third demerger in a year by spinning off Grantchester Holdings and creating the largest listed retail warehouse specialist in the UK.

The demerged Grantchester will acquire from Burford a retail park in Falkirk and an option over another park in Huddersfield, valued together at £41.45 million, on top of the six retail investment properties it already owns.

In return Burford shareholders will be given one

Grantchester share for every 13 Burford shares they hold, giving them a 46 per cent stake in the newly listed entity.

Burford will subscribe £10 million to retain a 24 per cent holding. Grantchester's existing management will have a 30 per cent interest.

After listing Grantchester will have net assets of £63.4 million, equivalent to 91p per share. The pro forma value of its investment properties will be £86 million, rising to £100 million on the exercise of the option over the Huddersfield property.

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank	Bank	Bank
Rate	Rate	Rate	Rate
Australia \$	1.08	Malta	0.606
Austria Sch	13.76	Netherlands Gld	2.238
Belgium Fr	33.30	New Zealand \$	1.841
Canada \$	2.228	Norway Kr	10.72
Cyprus Cyp£	0.793	Portugal Esc	203.20
Denmark Kr	8.46	S Africa Rd	6.87
Finland Mk	7.70	Spain Ptas	166.64
France Fr	6.55	Sweden Kr	10.37
Germany Dm	2.34	Switzerland Fr	2.10
Greece Dr	367	Turkey Lira	147000
Hong Kong \$	12.75	USA \$	1.082
Ireland P	1.15		
Italy Lit	1.37		
Japan Yen	168.80		

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclays Bank. Other rates apply to American Express. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Moss Bros profits reach record £4.9m

MOSS BROS, the menswear group, provided more evidence of stronger high street spending yesterday when it reported rapid growth in its profits and sales. Pre-tax profits for the six months to July 27 were 54 per cent up, to a record £4.9 million. Sales rose by 38 per cent to £48.5 million, boosted by recent openings of Suit Company and Savoy Tailors Guild shops. Like-for-like sales growth ran at 14 per cent during the first half. Menswear spending remained buoyant through August and September, with an 11 per cent increase in like-for-like sales for the first weeks of its second half.

Terry Donovan, finance director, said the menswear market had grown by about 7 per cent this year. Moss Bros estimates it has nearly 10 per cent of the suit market. The acquisition of Blazer, the 28-shop chain bought from Storehouse for £7.1 million, made a small loss in its first six weeks as part of the group. Moss Bros expects Blazer to improve the group's earnings next year. Moss Bros has increased its interim dividend by 30 per cent to 6.5p a share, payable on November 12.

O&R chairman quits

MAURICE DWEK has resigned as chairman of Owen & Robinson after the shoe retailer gave warning that its year-end results would fall below market forecasts. Mr Dwek, who joined part of a rescue team in July last year, is the third director to resign in as many months, after Rodney East and Keith Miles. Egon von Greyerz, the former finance director of Dixons, has been named as the company's new chairman. Analysts, who were looking for profits of £900,000 before the warning, were making no year-end predictions yesterday. Its shares fell a penny to 8½p.

Chrysalis appointment

CHRIS WRIGHT, the executive chairman of Chrysalis, the music and entertainment group, has finally made good on his promise to appoint a managing director. The hiring yesterday of Philip McDaniell, 44, the former senior vice-president of MTV Networks Europe, came after a boardroom row that saw Chrysalis lose two of its three non-executive directors. Sir David Putnam and Viscount Chandos resigned last month, partly because of the apparent unwillingness of Mr Wright, who owns 43 per cent of the company, to appoint a managing director.

Rolls to sell subsidiary

ROLLS-ROYCE is to sell Bristol Aerospace, its Canadian maintenance and missile company which employs 960 people. Stan Todd, president of Rolls-Royce Canada Industries, said: "Over time, Bristol Aerospace's products have moved away from the business areas Rolls-Royce sees as central to its operation in the next century. This evolution has reached a point where we believe it is in the best interest of the business for it to be owned by a company more focused on these products." Rolls-Royce said it had not fixed a price and was not yet involved in negotiations.

Warning hits Bick

SHARES of Bick fell 179p to 425p yesterday as the time measurement and security systems provider said that it had suffered difficult trading conditions in its last quarter and expected slower growth. The company is to invest £500,000 for 51 per cent of a joint venture in Europe, to be named ABI Europe. It will produce an office computer system that will integrate fire and security networks with clock-in swipe cards used by employees. Kleinwort Benson, Bick's broker, yesterday cut its profits forecasts from £16 million to £15.2 million for the year to September 30.

Seton buys for £7m

SETON HEALTHCARE Group, the medical products company, announced two acquisitions worth a total of £7 million yesterday. It is buying the Far East rights to the Woodward's brand of gripe water and heering gel from London International Group for £3.5 million and has also purchased Cymalon, a leading cystitis brand, from SmithKline Beecham for £3.5 million. In the year to March 31 Woodward's Far East earned operating profits of £1.3 million on sales of £2.3 million. Seton acquired the UK and UK export business of Woodward's in November 1995.

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□ Extending VAT would be self-defeating □ BBC shows off to the City □ Paddington gets a job

Bad idea for Bournemouth

□ MANY Conservatives will have tried to lift their spirits on the way to Bournemouth by reading *A Conservative Agenda*, a timely outpouring of fifth-term policies from the Centre for Policy Studies. By the time they finish, many might wonder if Tessa Jowell and Edward Heathcoat Amory, its authors, are in fact a fifth column.

The most attention-grabbing proposal is to levy VAT on food, fares and, believe it or not, water. You can imagine how much West Country Tories will enjoy selling that one on the doorstep. The aim is to bring the main rate of income tax down to 20 per cent while cuts in benefits and Whitehall genuinely bring public spending below its current 42 per cent of national income.

Indirect tax on spending is "inherently more desirable" than taxing incomes, say the authors, although "extending the VAT base is not politically easy". If anything proves the folly of scouring old economics textbooks for new policies, this is it. In a state running a price-protected benefit system, the only sure effect of a switch from direct tax to tax on everyday goods is to increase public spending on welfare and the total tax burden.

State pensions and most means-tested benefits are linked to the retail prices index. Food, fares *et al* feature heavily in the

index and make up a higher proportion of the spending of poorer people. That is why they were left out in the first place.

The decision to levy VAT on domestic fuel, which is heavily used by pensioners, entailed a rise of about £1 billion a year in public spending to raise £3 billion in tax. Since 1979, the gradual switch from direct to indirect taxation has probably added 2 percentage points to public spending as a proportion of the nation's income.

That is doubtless one reason why John Major gave voters the impression in 1992 that there would be no extension of VAT.

Auntie cuts her cloth

□ WHICH big business, over the past three years, has cut almost a fifth off costs and reduced borrowings to a fifth of their former level? Which corporation has managed a 9 per cent increase in output of its most expensive product? And which manufacturer, faced with rapid incursions from new competition

into a market it once dominated, has responded by cutting support staff by 5,000, or 20 per cent, over five years while taking on 1,500 more production-line workers?

The answer could be pretty well every company across British industry, or at least those that intend to survive. But the above numbers come from the BBC, dear old Auntie herself, from a briefing to be given today to City media analysts. Studio prices are down 25 per cent over three years, investment in programmes is up by £300 million, and TV hours and radio hours produced have risen by 9 and 18 per cent respectively.

There has even been, and scan the schedules for proof to the contrary if you will, a 41 per cent reduction in peak-time repeats.

The Beeb presents annually to the City, but today's figures have an added interest because of the deal announced late last month between the corporation and Discovery Communications of the US and London-quoted Flextech. A new venture will sell BBC products on dedicated channels by satellite in Britain



and America, concentrating on the drama, documentaries and comedy that the BBC, rampant jingoism aside, does better than anyone else in the world. The programmes will go to the BBC's existing viewers as well, but part of the production costs will be met by the new partners.

The deal would have been unthinkable a decade ago. This is not the occasion for agonised handwringing over the proper role of the BBC, and the erosion or otherwise of Reithian values. That battle can be fought elsewhere, if it has not already been lost. But it is accepted by the top management at least that the BBC, which has not seen an above-inflation increase in the licence fee for a decade, must

operate on a commercial basis. If that view is adopted, then it is up to the corporation to strike the best Faustian bargain it can. The Flextech deal provides a half stake, free of charge, in a new business that will produce an additional income stream.

The BBC presentation will show that, on most available forecasts, the corporation cannot expect to share in the expected explosion of TV revenues over the next decade. The graph shows the Beeb, ITV and Channel 4 largely static at current levels. Some of the growth will go to Channel 5 from the start of next year, which will end up with a share somewhere behind Channel 4. Most will be enjoyed by satellite and cable, expected to triple their revenue over the next decade.

The BBC's problem is that there is no benefit, in terms of extra cash from licence holders, from an improvement in its programmes. Any management consultant, faced with static revenues, would conclude that the only way to improve service to customers would be to cut overheads and bring in outside

partners to share them, thus raising output for the same cost. Now the BBC has reached this same conclusion.

Please take good care of this bear

□ IT WAS a strange sort of morning in the Brown household. Mr Brown just sat there staring into space, muttering the phrase "ten million quid" to himself every now and again.

Paddington knew something important had happened. Finally Mr Brown cleared his throat. "Paddington," he said. "You've been living with us rent-free for years, and it's about time you earned a living."

Then the whole story came out. It seemed a man called Chris Akers, who used to be something important in the City, owned Paddington's rights. Paddington didn't know he had any rights, being a simple bear, but they were worth a lot of money. The problem was, he would have to move to a country called Canada, where it was very cold and the policemen all wore funny hats.

Mr Akers ran a queer sort of thing called Caspian that never seemed to make any money. Caspian had bought Leeds United Football Club, and there had been an awful quarrel over that, but it had at least brought in some profits at last. Caspian's market worth, £29 million, did not seem to have much to do with these, but Paddington learnt that the City was full of such strange things, which went by names such as "fast-growing media shells". It was a bit like buying antiques. Some were genuine, but others made a lot of people very unhappy in the end.

Suddenly Paddington had an idea. If Caspian made a lot of money, would Leeds be able to buy lots of good players from clubs like Athletic Darkest Peru and occasionally win a match? But Mr Brown was peering at the share price page in his newspaper, muttering to himself again. It sounded like "Pan Andean Resources"...

Hard but fair

□ JUST for a moment it seemed the Inland Revenue might make a charitable exception of Octav Botnar. But Mr Botnar has been told he had better not show his face until he is ready to pay his debts. Good; and rantings about the Inland Revenue secret police will not have helped his case.

Calor expected to back 300p a share SHV bid

By CARL MORTIMER

SHV, the controlling shareholder in Calor Group, is to make a 300p a share offer for the remaining shares in the bottled gas company. Calor is expected to recommend a formal offer for the company today from SHV, the private Dutch company that already owns 51.6 per cent of Calor's equity.

Calor shares rose sharply last week, closing at 290p on Friday, an increase of more than 10 per cent from their level at the end of September. Yesterday's announcement of SHV's intentions is thought to have been prompted by the share price movement. SHV is pro-

posing to offer 300p in cash, including a 40p net special dividend which will be paid by Calor, conditional upon the approval of independent non-executive directors of Calor, Michael Davies and George Duncan. Mr Davies and Mr Duncan are recommending the bid to shareholders.

According to SBC Warburg, which is advising SHV, the 40p special dividend is likely to be worth an extra 10p to pension funds and other non-taxpayers, valuing the offer at 310p per share. The special payout is in addition to the 6p interim dividend already an-

nounced last month. In support of its bid, SHV is likely to argue that Calor's core UK business is mature and suffering from competitive pressure, while cash returns from investments in developing countries are a long way off.

The offer is to be made by way of a scheme of arrangement, which avoids the requirement for the bidder to secure 90 per cent or more of the outstanding shares to achieve complete ownership.

In March, Calor announced a £10 million restructuring of its core liquid propane gas business, involving the loss of

up to 200 jobs. Profits declined from £49 million to £35 million last year because of warm weather and higher gas prices.

With SHV's help, Calor has been expanding its investment in developing countries, such as the purchase, through a joint venture, of an interest in a leading distributor in Brazil this year.

Calor reported last month that Calorex, its joint venture natural gas distributor, had secured the second-largest market share in the South West free market gas trials.

Tempos, page 28

Cobham delivers 47% rise

COBHAM, the aerospace equipment supplier, achieved a 47 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £20.3 million in the six months to June 30 (Oliver August writes).

Earnings per share grew from 12.39p to 15.7p and the interim dividend was lifted from 3.05p to 3.5p, payable on December 12.

The Nimrod replacement contract awarded to British Aerospace will benefit Cobham to the tune of £100 million over the next ten years. FBS, a joint venture, will provide helicopters and staff for the Service Defence Helicopter Flying School under a £400 million contract.

Irish media group raises takeover bid

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

INDEPENDENT Newspapers, the Irish Republic media group, enhanced its chances of securing control of Wilson and Horton, New Zealand's largest publishing company, when it increased its takeover bid to Ir£463 million from Ir£442 million.

Independent said its revised offer of NZ\$11 a share, increased from NZ\$10.50, had been agreed at the weekend with the independent directors of Wilson and Horton who are recommending acceptance.

John Meagher, deputy chairman of Independent Newspapers, said: "Although we believe the original offer was fair, we also wanted to have the full support of the

independent directors of Wilson and Horton." Independent and several other companies controlled by Tony O'Reilly already own 45 per cent of Wilson and Horton.

The original offer was given a boost when a New Zealand Stock Exchange appraiser said it was "fair". The appraisal, a legal requirement in New Zealand, valued Wilson and Horton shares at \$10.20 to \$11.10. But analysts there insisted that given the stock has traded above \$10.50 since the takeover bid, Independent would have to dig deeper.

The company made pre-tax profits of \$28.1 million on revenues of \$212.9 million for the first six months of this year.

US sale for United Utilities

UNITED UTILITIES, the multi-utility formed last year by the £1.8 billion takeover of Norweb by North West Water, has sold its multinational wastewater treatment division to United States Filter Corporation for £125 million in cash and shares (Fraser Nelson writes).

The division, which has assets of £76 million, contains seven separate companies, with a presence in as many countries. It has been on the auction block since March.

United States Filter Corporation has made the acquisition as part of its bid to construct an international one-stop-shop for water treatment. Shares of United Utilities closed at 576.5p yesterday, down 1p.

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THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

King orders a taxi to Tonga

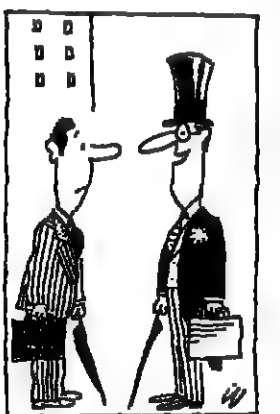
THERE is more good news for Manganese Bronze, London's largest maker of taxi cabs, after yesterday's record results announcement.

The King of Tonga, who is not known for his snazzy hips, has put in an order for a top-of-the-range cab of his own. The vehicle, to be delivered to the Friendly Isles, will come complete with leather seats and, of course, all mod cons.

In a desperate attempt to beat the bulge, His Royal Highness has recently taken possession of an exercise bike, but, following the lead of the Duke of Edinburgh, he has pumped for a Hackney Carriage.

Knight flight

ANGELA KNIGHT, queen bee at the Treasury, is getting more regal by the day. On a three-day trip to China, the Treasury Minister flew separately from Sir Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, and Ian Saller, deputy chairman of the London Stock Exchange. Staying at the China World Hotel, she took time off during her whirlwind visit yesterday to sign the Memorandum of Understanding in Peking, an agreement with the China Securities Regulatory Commission. The agreement is aimed at closer links between financial regulators. Sunday was spent walking part of the Great Wall of China and inspecting the Ming tombs.



"The big occasion? Record interim plus a dividend increase from Moss Bros"

Five-Bob effort

LONDON's traditional red telephone boxes aren't safe these days, after BT took New World Payphones to court because it was adopting the King George V kiosks for its own use. Now, it's the turn of Telewest, the UK's largest cable supplier, who cut the cost of its calls yesterday, on the eve of BT's reduced rate launch today. To deliver the latest blow in the war of the wires, Telewest hired five Bob Hoskins doppelgangers, wrapped in cables, to pose alongside BT telephone boxes in a corner of Trafalgar Square. It's good to talk.

HENDERSON Administration Group is laid to rest today and henceforth all parts of the investment business will be known as Henderson Investors. Painters were flexing their brushes to the maximum yesterday in a bid to revamp the gaudy maroon building in its new colours: brilliant red, blue and green.

Seeking office

PHILIP McDANELL, the new managing director at Chrysalis, drives a hard bargain. He has been on the wish list of executive chairman Chris Wright for the last year, and at last McDanell has thrown in the towel at MTV and joined him. But all is not well at Chrysalis where McDanell is lobbying for a new office. He is also angling for some time off: he wants to take part in the World Sailing Championships in San Francisco.

MORAG PRESTON

Lang confident business will turn out for Tories

Philip Bassett on the jousting by Conservatives and Labour for support from industry

Ian Lang is unequivocal: the Conservatives, he says, are the natural political party for business to support, on grounds of self-interest and the interests of Britain. And he is "confident and hopeful" that business will show its support in the coming general election.

That the President of the Board of Trade feels the need to make such a clear declaration is an indication of how far the jousting between the Conservatives and Labour for business support has come. In his speech tomorrow in Bournemouth to the Conservative Party's last annual conference before the election, Mr Lang will set out the Tory stall for business to examine ahead of polling day.

Speaking to *The Times* in advance of his address, Mr Lang maintained his confidence about the close inter-relationship between business and Conservatism. But he was passionate too, in his rejection of the suit Labour has been making to industry.

Mr Lang said: "Most of the businessmen I talk to, and I talk to a lot, are instinctively supportive of us and deeply anxious about what they would face under a Labour government" — a statutory national minimum wage, the ending of the UK's opt-out from the European social chapter, and what he identifies as the entirely different approach to business by the two parties.

The Conservatives emphasise the central importance of competitiveness and freedom for business to take its own decisions, while Labour is "still starting from a standpoint of intervention, control and advancing the interests of the trade union approach".

Policy towards business is unlikely to be the keynote of the Conservative conference, given the continuing swirl of allegations about sleaze and the deep splits within the party over Europe. But like many other supposed certainties previously taken for granted, the party's connection with business is now under threat.

Poll evidence suggests that the traditional support given to the Conservatives by business has not only slipped since the last general election in 1992 — in line with general poll findings amongst the electorate — but that it has stayed down. Among the business leaders regularly polled by the Institute of Management (IoM) support for the Conservatives is down by about 20 percentage points on their 1992 result, while business support for Labour is double its 1992 level.

The IoM's analysts say that managers' support for Labour is slipping back as they subject the party to closer examination as the election draws nearer.

However, they add that although the Conservatives still enjoy the largest business support of any party, the easing back from Labour has not led to a swingback to the Tories but to an increase in the number of undecided business voters.

Sitting in his eighth-floor office high above London's Victoria Street, Mr Lang is cheerily sceptical about such psephological run-reading — and is doubtful, too, that groups such as "business" or, say, "women" can necessarily be seen in a homogenous electoral way. He dismisses the idea that although business does not much



Ian Lang will set out the Tory stall in Bournemouth for business to examine

want to see a Labour victory in the coming election, it believes it is going to get one.

He says that polls also indicate a general trend rather than a particular, precise level of support and that, in any case, as the election approaches, they will tighten — indeed are already doing so. But the fact that Labour has any real presence at all among business voters is enough to worry Conservative Party managers who, like Mr Lang, essentially regard business as theirs.

So far, the Conservatives have not matched Labour's pro-business drive. Although the Conservatives in government, for example, have now issued in the form of the Competitiveness White Papers three lengthy annual statements on business policy, the last specifically Conservative party document on its attitudes towards business

came in Peter Lilley's time at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Mr Lang is unimpressed by Labour's two lengthy statements on business policy. Having memorably in *The Times* a year ago dismissed Labour's policies towards business as a "vapour wrapped up in a cloud", he now accepts that Labour has set out more policy in this area, but brushes it off as "all aspiration, assertion and wish lists".

He said: "We have always held ourselves out as a party that is a national party. The Labour Party glorified in the fact that it was a sectional party. Now it's trying to pretend that it isn't. It's still issuing sectional policies, but they're sectional policies wrapped up in a diffusive rhetoric. And that's inherently unsustainable."

He continued: "I came into politics as a businessman. I was in business for nearly 20 years, and my ministerial career both at the Scottish Office and now here (at the DTI) has been business-oriented."

"I was drawn initially to come into politics by resentment not just at the finishing point of Labour policies, but by the starting point of Labour policies" — a point which, he says, in spite of dressing it up in fashionable clothes such as 'stakeholding', is still there. Conservative policy towards business, he said, was the complete antithesis of the "inherently interventionist, intrusive, controlling attitude that you find on the other side".

While Mr Lang accepts that no one should assume that all the members of the Confederation of British Industry or other business groupings vote Conservative, he manages to point out that "the chances are that most of them do". If they do, did ministers such as Mr Lang recognise the resentment some businesses, especially small firms, feel towards a government that in the recession of the early Nineties let them down, and let them down badly: in terms of output, orders, jobs and for many absolute business survival.

He said: "It's inevitable that if you are a government you pay the price in popularity terms of the trade cycle and the economic cycle. We have been through some very rough times. But the answer to that is to say: yes, it was rough, and we've taken some difficult decisions. But look at the contrast now: we took the right decisions, as a result of which we have low interest rates, low inflation, unemployment well below the European average, more people in work and growth on an annual basis coming through."

He accepts that the task for the Conservatives is to translate that into votes, from business and everywhere else. "We must make sure that they lift their horizons", citing in particular the success of the Conservative Government in helping to bring more than £100 billion in inward investment to the UK since it came to office in 1979.

Labour's success in making inroads into the business community makes that task harder and the party's claims, encapsulated by Tony Blair, its leader, in his conference speech in Blackpool last week of Labour now being the party of business and especially of small business draws heat from Mr Lang.

"How Labour has the gall to stand up and claim that they support small businesses when every specific policy that they have is inimical to them, is... Words almost fail him at the audacity of it. What does he feel when he hears such claims? 'Pury, just fury. Tony Blair's performance last week was essentially fraudulent. Not just on the issue of small businesses. Right across the board he was promising all kinds of things without saying how they are going to be paid for.'"

Mr Lang insists that business has a proper valuation of how high the stakes will be for industry in the coming election: "I think that although the Labour Party hasn't spelt out its policies in great detail in many areas, the divides between us and them on the issues affecting business are as wide and deep in the run-up to the election as they have ever been."

He says that the impatience, too, the increase in business support for Labour when he claims that support for the Conservatives is coming back and yet offers an optimistic electoral forecast for the party.

He says: "I am confident that business will make a more realistic appraisal of where its interests lie when the time comes — and I sense that that mood is beginning to develop."



Lose-lose time for Clarke at the conference

I can't be much fun to be a Chancellor of the Exchequer whose greatest fans reside outside his own party and whose enemies are within. Sitting down this week to hone Thursday's speech to conference must seem an exercise in futility.

This was an election that the Government always wanted to fight on its economic management of the economy and, to a degree that has earned widespread respect in the City, Kenneth Clarke has delivered. The economy is in its fifth year of recovery with no discernible sign of higher inflation, unemployment has fallen for many months and Britain's balance of payments is in a surprisingly healthy position. The Chancellor is fond of describing all this as the best combination of economic circumstances for a generation and no doubt will again on Thursday.

To some extent, the Chancellor can take direct credit. He has repeatedly bettered the Bank of England's economic analysis, cutting interest rates and now refusing to raise them in defiance of the central bankers. Just yesterday, with figures showing a fall in industrial production of 0.4 per cent in August, confounding City expectations which believed that strengthening consumer demand was finally dragging industry out of its doldrums.

Of course, yesterday's production figures are a bit old and it does look from the evidence of various surveys that output picked up in September, some say quite sharply. Nevertheless, the figures suggest that Mr Clarke will be able to hang on without raising base rates until the election. This is a considerable bonus for the Government given the boost to confidence from mortgage rates at 30-year lows and the psychological blow if they were raised.

Strengthening the Chancellor's hand on monetary policy too are events across the Atlantic where the Federal Reserve opted, to some surprise in the markets, not to raise interest rates, a decision that received early vindication in last Friday's weak set of American employment numbers. Of course, the Treasury always emphasises that British monetary policy is made

purely on domestic grounds, but it is still helpful that US rates have remained on hold, helping world bond markets to rally strongly.

Much more important to the interest rate equation, however, is sterling. Since its low point last November, the pound has appreciated 6 per cent on a trade weighted basis. The traditional formula has it that a 4 per cent appreciation in sterling is the equivalent of 1 per cent on base rates. But, as Roger Bootle, of Midland Bank, notes, the actual level of base rates has fallen 1 per cent during this period. So there has been quite a significant monetary tightening, courtesy of the exchange rate.

In spite of the disappointing manufacturing figures, Mr Clarke can offer the party faithful something of a return of the "feel-good" factor, largely because of low interest rates. In extremis, he may even be able to produce another cut in rates.

What Mr Clarke cannot do is deliver the large eye-catching tax cuts that many of his colleagues want. The one palpable failure of his time at Number 11 is on the public finances. Progress to-

wards balance in the medium term. The Government's official policy aim, has been slow. Any claim to be the party of sound public finances would be rendered laughable by a large fiscal give-away next month. The financial markets would rightly be horrified.

And Mr Clarke is not well served by advice from his own side. Take the latest offering from the Centre for Policy Studies, the influential Conservative think-tank. The CPS is recommending a 20p basic rate of income tax paid for by imposing VAT on food, water, books and domestic passenger transport. If John Major were searching for quick political euthanasia, surely this is it.

Ken Clarke is in a lose-lose situation when he faces conference this week, even when you take his special status as the party's Euro bogey man out of the equation. He cannot please his party without destroying the trust of the City. Worse, with the latest Gallup poll showing Labour as preferred guardian of the economy in spite of Mr Clarke's best efforts, he apparently cannot please the electorate.

THE BUSINESS VOTE									
All figures as percentages									
	General election 1992	Sept 1995	Nov 1995	Feb 1996	May 1996	Aug 1996	Sept 1996		
Conservative	54	45	42	43	42	44	45		
Labour	35	48	52	55	56	54	53		
Liberal Democrat	13	17	18	17	16	15	16		
Others	7	6	6	5	5	5	5		
Undecided	-	-	8	10	11	11	11		

Source: Institute of Management

BUSINESS LETTERS

Close these accounting loopholes

From Steven Easton

Sir, With the current uncertainty in the labour market, and the drive towards reducing headcount at any cost to produce favourable figures for the City, could I suggest closing a couple of accounting loopholes to save people a lot of stress and insecurity?

At the moment a company may state a headcount of permanent full time staff. This does not count contractors brought in on short term contracts, say six months, who are self-employed.

This has seen some large companies reduce permanent staff counts through redundancy but replace them with contractors who are often the same people! The work is still done, but it is not counted. Generally the argument put forward for this policy is that the contractors can be removed at a moment's notice. However, in practice they remain at work, renewing contracts for many years (and at £1,000-£2,000 a week for computer contractors, this is

not cheap). A second ploy is to hire off whole divisions of a company as a wholly owned subsidiary. Employees are transferred to this company, with contracts safeguarded, perks may be reduced without compensation, and job security much lower. Again the work is still done, but the shareholders are not told as it is not reflected in the overall headcount.

Could I petition, through your newspaper, that the Accounting Standards Board look into closing these loopholes and that they demand that a company headcount includes employees in wholly owned subsidiaries and those that have been engaged for more than six months, regardless of contract type? Hopefully this would reduce corporate enthusiasm for a rather destructive practice.

Yours faithfully,
STEVEN EASTON,
28 Bemersyde Drive,
Jesmond,
Newcastle on Tyne,
NE2 2HU

Computers log the phone calls

From Mr Stuart Beadle

Sir, In your business letters column of October 1, Christopher Power asks how the managing director of British Gas knows that the majority of our customers' calls are being answered.

The reason we know is that our new computerised communications systems provide statistics on the number of calls handled, the number of calls abandoned and the number of callers in the queue at any time. We also have an analysis of those callers who receive the engaged tone.

While we acknowledge that our telephone service is still not very satisfactory, it is still improving.

Yours faithfully,
STUART BEADLE,
National Call Centre Manager,
British Gas,
30 The Causeway,
Staines, Middlesex.

Regret that consumers will have to wait months for any gas bill reductions

From the Director-General of Ofgas

Sir, I did not intend to accuse British Gas of a personal campaign against me (Report, October 4), nor do I believe I did so in my comments. I did say I thought the generalised attempts to influence public opinion, which appeared to have characterised much of the comment on Ofgas's proposals, had not created an atmosphere suitable to an objective discussion between British Gas and Ofgas of the complex issues involved.

Ofgas considers there is scope to cut charges for gas transportation by an amount

which will save the average domestic consumer £28 in 1997-98 and more in later years. In our opinion this would still leave British Gas enough revenue to provide a safe, reliable and efficiently run gas pipeline system, and to give a fair reward to each shareholder's interest in the gas transportation business. We were advised by many, including two independent panels, that further reductions were possible.

British Gas, however, considers the proposals would leave the company insufficient revenue for these purposes. There is therefore a difference

of opinion on matters which require careful judgment. The issue will now go before the MMC.

I regret that consumers will now have to wait some months before knowing whether they will get bill reductions. In the meantime, however, I intend that it will be business as usual with British Gas in the other areas where we have regular contact. This includes

the development of competition in the domestic supply market, where I should like to express my appreciation of the support and hard work of British Gas staff.

Yours faithfully,
CLARE SPOTTISWOODE,
Director-General,
Ofgas,
Stockley House,
130 Wilton Road,
London, SW1.

The enemy within the Council of Lloyd's

From Mr Robert Hiscox

Sir, The fuss about the bonus paid to the chairman of Lloyd's completely misses the target.

The only repellent, disgusting and odious feature of the bonus is that a member of the Council of Lloyd's yet again leaked the information and broke his or her allegiance to the council and breached their agreed condition of serving on the council — total confidentiality.

The bonus of £100,000 per annum for four years for

succeeding in the most difficult job in the City, thereby saving the country, countless policyholders, thousands of workers and names from financial disaster, is arguably far too small.

It is definitely too small when you consider that he had to work throughout with the enemy within, with some members of his closest council acting with a total lack of honour and integrity.

Yours faithfully,
ROBERT HISCOX,
52 Leadenhall Street,
EC3.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

ACABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

WE HAVE TO HAND IT TO BT: THEY STILL DO THE BIGGEST ADS.

(BUT WE STILL DO THE BIGGEST SAVINGS.)

On October 8th, BT's massive ads announced "massive" savings. But our wee ads announced savings that are quite gargantuan. Yes, with our GlobalLink package for businesses, we're still 48% cheaper for a 3 minute call to the States during weekday working hours. So for small ad bargains FreeCall 0500 800 125.

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

It doesn't cost anything to talk
FreeCall 0500 800 125

Prices and savings compared against BT's base rate, 5am to 6pm, weekdays. Calls are subject to a minimum charge of 4.2p. GlobalLink savings are available for a sub-optimal level of £1.50 per quarter. All prices quoted net VAT.

Shares rise in thin trading

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES							
255	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
256	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
257	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
258	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
259	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
260	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
261	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
262	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
263	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
264	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
265	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
266	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
267	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
268	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
269	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5
270	47	46	Brewery	47.00	+0.10	0.2	15.5

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BANKS							
271	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
272	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
273	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
274	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
275	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
276	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
277	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
278	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
279	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
280	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
281	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
282	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
283	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
284	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
285	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
286	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
287	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
288	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
289	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
290	27.00	26.80	Bank	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BREWERS, PUBS & REST							
291	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
292	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
293	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
294	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
295	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
296	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
297	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
298	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
299	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
300	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
301	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
302	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
303	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
304	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
305	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
306	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
307	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
308	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
309	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
310	27.00	26.80	Brewery	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING & CONSTRUCT							
311	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
312	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
313	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
314	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
315	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
316	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
317	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
318	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
319	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
320	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
321	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
322	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
323	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
324	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
325	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
326	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
327	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
328	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
329	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
330	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ELECTRICITY							
331	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
332	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
333	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
334	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
335	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
336	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
337	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
338	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
339	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
340	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
341	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
342	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
343	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
344	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
345	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
346	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
347	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
348	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
349	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
350	27.00	26.80	Electricity	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
ELECTRONIC & ELECT							
351	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
352	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
353	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
354	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
355	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
356	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
357	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
358	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
359	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
360	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
361	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
362	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
363	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
364	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
365	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
366	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
367	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
368	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
369	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
370	27.00	26.80	Electronic	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	PE
BUILDING MATERIALS							
371	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
372	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
373	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
374	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
375	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
376	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
377	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
378	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
379	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
380	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
381	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
382	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
383	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
384	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
385	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
386	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
387	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
388	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
389	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0
390	27.00	26.80	Building	27.00	+0.20	0.7	12.0

59	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	150	1
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TI doubles size of polymer operation with Swedish deal

By PAUL DURMAN

TI GROUP is doubling the size of its polymer engineering business through the £189 million acquisition of Forsheda, a quoted Swedish company.

The move will give TI a £300 million a year business making the polymer seals used in a wide range of industrial applications.

Forsheda, which has 1,250 employees in 13 countries, is a leading supplier of the seals used to secure concrete construction pipes. The technical expertise involved produces healthy profit margins: last year Forsheda made a pre-tax profit of Kr224.4 million (£21.6 million) from sales of Kr1.4 billion (£134.6 million).

TI is offering cash for Forsheda's shares. It has already secured acceptances from the Agora Group, a family-run business that owns 20.6 per cent of Forsheda's shares and controls nearly two thirds of the votes. TI is

offering Kr225 (£21.65) for each of the B shares in Forsheda. This is almost 40 per cent higher than the price at which they traded prior to last week's suspension of share dealings. TI is paying Kr247.50 for the higher-voting A shares, which are all held by Agora.

Sir Christopher Lewinton, TI's chairman, described the deal as a major bolt-on. He said Forsheda was entirely complementary to the group's existing polymer business, which serves different market niches, including the defence industry.

TI will give Forsheda global distribution through its network of 1,000 sales and service engineers. The British company hopes Forsheda will enable it to increase sales in Scandinavia and the Baltic countries.

The Forsheda management team, headed by Sonny Lindquist, chief executive, is set to join TI and its John

Crane arm. TI has still to decide how to combine Forsheda's operations with those of the Crane polymer business. Shares of TI, which expects the acquisition of Forsheda to produce a modest increase in earnings next year, closed 2p higher at 572p.

Forsheda is said to have a good name in its markets. Its other brands include Stela and Skega. Although it has a growing American business, more than 80 per cent of the company's sales are in Europe. A quarter of sales are to the automotive industry.

In the first half of this year, Forsheda made a pre-tax profit of £8.1 million. At the start of the year it had net assets of £31.9 million.

TI acquired the Crane polymer engineering business when it took over Dowty four years ago. The Forsheda deal brings to £240 million the amount TI has spent on bolt-on acquisitions this year.



John Padfield says Chiroscience is seeking partners to help develop its arthritis, cancer and asthma treatments

Chiroscience in talks on alliances

CHIROSCIENCE, the biotechnology company that launched its first product in June, said it is in talks with leading pharmaceutical companies about potential alliances and expects to announce new partnerships within six months (Eric Reguly writes).

John Padfield, chief executive, said the company needs partners to help it

develop its arthritis, cancer and asthma treatments. Typically, a partner is a large drugs company that funds clinical trials of a compound. In exchange, the biotech company receives royalties later.

Dr Padfield would not reveal the identities of the potential new partners. In the past, it has struck deals with Medeva, BASF/Knoll and sells

Enanyum, a pain killer, in Spain with Eli Lilly of America.

Chiroscience reported an increased operating loss of £8.3 million in the half-year to August 31 (£7.3 million loss), due to more research spending. The company has £47 million in cash and expects to break even by 2000. The shares rose 13½p to 407½p.

Chinese set for listing in London

By OUR CITY STAFF

CHINESE companies could soon be listed on the London Stock Exchange after an agreement on securities and futures information was signed yesterday — the first of its kind in Europe.

The two Chinese exchanges, in Shanghai and Shenzhen, are now able to offer companies direct access to London's market.

The agreement comes after months of negotiations and was signed by officials from China and the UK. Ian Salter, Stock Exchange deputy chairman, said the historic move would cement London's status as "the world's leading exchange for international listings".

He added: "China is one of the world's major economies and is expected to continue to expand rapidly over the next couple of decades."

"As the first European exchange to sign an agreement with the Chinese authorities, London will be uniquely able to attract Chinese companies looking to raise international capital in the European time zone."

Mr Salter said that there had been considerable interest from Chinese companies.

Tay Homes profits fall to £1.09m as sales dip

By MARTIN BARROW

TAY HOMES, the house-builder based in Leeds, suffered a sharp downturn in pre-tax profits to £1.09 million from £7.06 million in the year to June 30.

Profitability was affected by continued downward pressure on volumes and margins last year, the company said. Turnover fell £8 million to £110 million and the number of houses sold fell by 167 to 1,392. But average selling prices rose to £75,800 from £71,700.

Part-exchange facilities were provided on a high proportion of houses sold and total group borrowings increased to £30.3 million from £21.8 million. Higher investment in site development and the cost of part-exchange deals lifted interest costs to £2.9 million from £2.4 million.

Earnings fell to 2.4p a share (15.9p). The total dividend is maintained at 7p a share, even though it is uncovered by earnings, with a final dividend of 4.45p due November 25. The shares were unchanged at 119½p yesterday.

Trevor Spencer, chairman, said the housing market during 1995 and early 1996 experienced the worst conditions in 30 years. "We are slowly but clearly emerging from this difficult period and, while achieving sales is still a competitive activity, units sold are currently 35 per cent ahead of last year," he said.

Weakened land prices strengthened in autumn 1995. The increase in demand has affected Tay's ability to replenish its land bank, with 4,000 plots currently available compared with 4,250 previously.

Italy to sell tranche of 700m ENI shares

By ERIC REGULY

THE Italian government launched the largest secondary offering of the year yesterday, announcing that it would sell 700 million shares of ENI, Italy's largest energy and chemicals group and one of the 10 biggest companies in Europe. At current prices, the new issue would be worth about \$3.4 billion.

The 700 million shares are equivalent to 8.75 per cent of ENI's capital and a "green shoe" option of 105 million shares. If exercised, would raise the total sale to about 10 per cent. The Treasury started ENI's privatisation last year by selling 15 per cent of the company at £5,250 a share. The shares reached a 52-week high of £8,000 and closed last week at £7,300 (about £3).

The price of the new ENI shares will be decided on October 26 and revealed the next day. About 300 million of the 700 million shares are earmarked for retail investors in Italy. Italian and international institutions are being offered 235 million shares.

The share sale is exceeded in size this year only by the initial public offering of Deutsche Telekom. The German government intends to raise about DM15 million next month by selling 500 million shares in the phone company.

The Italian government said another ENI tranche could be sold within the next nine months if the issue's global co-ordinators sensed it would not harm the share price. With only 15 per cent of ENI shares in public hands so far, the market can expect more secondary offerings.

Geo's Israeli troops have listing on AIM in their sights

By OLIVER AUGUST

A GROUP of elite Israeli soldiers is proposing to secure a share listing for an Internet business on London's Alternative Investment Market.

Geo Interactive Media, the group's computer company, has launched a £10 million AIM placing to fund the marketing of new software. "Emblaze" is said to be the first data compressor which can transmit text, sound and picture sequences in real time. With a price tag of \$1,000 it will make video conferencing on the Internet commonly available.

The Emblaze technology has already been developed by Geo; the capital raised is intended for marketing. The company, an offshoot of the Israel Defence Forces, will float 10 per cent of its equity and may seek a full listing next year.

Niels Bryan-Low, an Internet consultant from Product Web, said: "Geo has a product and a team of programmers that's capable of making a real splash on the international software market."

Geo was founded two years ago by Naftali Shani, now chief executive, and controller of the Israeli Prime Minister's office from 1979-89. He said: "This is even more exciting than being at the forefront of Israeli poli-

tics. Emblaze allows full communication on the Internet without any kind of delay." Geo's key strength is its close link with the Israeli military, one of the world's leading developers of computer technology. Eighty per cent of its staff are former programmers of military simulators; some have combat experience.

The company produces its software using a system called the "closed loop". This work-share system, invented by the Israeli armed forces, means that employees are confined to the programming room until they have finished a set task.

The average age of Geo's employees is 22½ years. The company continually recruits new soldier programmers through staff members returning to the military programming unit for their compulsory 30-day reserve duty every year. "We get to look at the new guys for a month and then we hire the best," Mr Shani said. "It's a gift."

The main reason for raising capital in London rather than America is speed of access, according to the company. A listing on AIM can be obtained in half the time it would take to become a Nasdaq company in New York.

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■ VISUAL ART 1

Milord goes to Italy: the Tate offers a sumptuous parade of painting created on the Grand Tour



■ VISUAL ART 2

The world of dreams is brought into the light in Marina Warner's Inner Eye show

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ VISUAL ART 3

Designs on the Twenties: the prolific career of Albert Rutherston is revisited



■ VISUAL ART 4

... and the tangled and anguished art of Leslie Hurry is also revived in London

VISUAL ART: Richard Cork on the Tate Gallery's celebration of Grand Tour paintings. Plus other shows

Dear all, having a grand time

Those who despair of tourism in Italy today, noisily turning Renaissance cities into an overcrowded hell, will find wry amusement in Thomas Patch's painting *The Golden Asses*. The year is 1761, and the British nobility's Grand Tour of the Italian past is in full swing. But none of the bewigged and powdered dignitaries assembled in this sumptuously frescoed hall bothers to look at the treasures on display. They drink and gossip, presided over by the gleeful Patch bestriding a donkey posed as an antique sculpture. And on the plinth below, an inscription that to "approach this rough and obstinate herd... for everyone very well knows that the first thing they do... is to let out a couple of kicks and two farts".

Patch himself, who had been expelled from Rome six years earlier for a homosexual indiscretion, thrived on caricaturing the Grand Tourists at his new base in Florence. Far from feeling insulted, many of them were beguiled by his outrageous burlesque. They must have recognised that, among the well-to-do who increasingly saw Italian travel as an essential part of their education, a significant number ignored the Renaissance and indulged in Mediterranean pleasures of a more asinine variety.

For others, though, the Grand Tour was a great deal more than a drunken finishing school. What started out in the 17th century as a search for influential contacts and wider political understanding had become, 100 years later, a more aesthetic adventure. As the Tate Gallery's major autumn exhibition discloses, painting, sculpture and architecture were the true focus of those genuinely pursuing cultural enlightenment. They journeyed south with expectations shaped by Claude, Canaletto and Salvator Rosa, whose idealised landscapes were already keenly collected.

Claude, the most sought-after by British connoisseurs, offered an especially bewitching vision. His *Pastoral Landscape with the Ponte Molle*, purchased by the 2nd Earl of Ashburnham in 1760, provides an irresistibly tender and serene image of the graceful bridge over the Tiber, balanced on the other side by a round tower and farm buildings. Classical figures punctuate the foreground, where a young woman gently holds the paw of a dog standing on its hind legs. While surprisingly



Vesuvius in Eruption (1776-80): Joseph Wright of Derby's version of the most spectacular and sublime sight that Italy afforded the Grand Tourists

faithful to a specific stretch of countryside near Rome, the entire painting glows with the enchantment of paradise.

No wonder the gentry hurried to test the Claudian dream against reality. They often celebrated their arrival by commissioning lordly portraits from the most sought-after artists of the day. Although Thomas Dundas was by no means the most extravagant of collectors, he asked the fashionable Roman painter Pompeo Batoni to depict him full-length in 1764. Swaggingly arrayed in scarlet and gold, he rests a proprietorial foot on a fountain sculpture derived from Bernini's tour de force in the Piazza Navona. His left hand thrusts out suggestively towards the groin of the Vatican Ariadne, one of the most admired antique carvings in Rome. And the other classical statues ranged behind him, including the Apollo Belvedere and the anguished Laocoon,

are posed like prized items from his own collection.

The truth is, of course, that Dundas could never have acquired them: cultivated cardinals made sure that all the outstanding antique sculpture ended up in the Pope's capacious galleries.

But the Milordi, as the British Grand Tourists were nicknamed in Italy, secured some remarkable coups in Renaissance art. Zoffany's astonishingly skilful painting of the Tribuna at the Uffizi, crammed with cosmopolitan connoisseurs peering at Titian's Venus of Urbino and related marvels, is partly intended to laud his own role as an adviser, securing key paintings for aristocratic patrons. He included himself on the left, brandishing a superb Madonna and Child by Raphael and directing a fawning glance at its gratified owner, Lord Cowper. In this instance,

love of art seems to be the collector's paramount concern. Over on the other side of the Tribuna, though, a notably lascivious group ogles the chazons of the Venus de' Medici.

Despite their prodigious spending power, British buyers did not always secure the treasures they wanted. Hugh Douglas Hamilton's suave panel shows Canova in his studio, standing with mallet in hand next to a plaster model for his celebrated *Cupid and Psyche*. The dealer Henry Tresham, both awed and frankly covetous, gazes at the sculpture in the belief that the carved version would soon be bought by his client, Colonel John Campbell. But political events in revolutionary France decreed that it was confiscated by Murat and acquired by the Louvre.

The tourists vied with each other to witness the eruption of Vesuvius, the most spectacular and sublime sight that Italy

afforded. Night was the favoured time for painters of the event, who revelled in the arresting contrast between the boiling red lava and the moon's icy illumination.

The little-known Pierre-Jacques Volaire produced the largest and most shameless image of the scene, a melodramatic affair showing the flames and lava flow irradiating the darkness. The tiny silhouetted figures of spectators, reminiscent of the full-blown Romantic viewers painted by Friedrich half a century later, gesticulate in front of the apocalyptic panorama.

But Volaire's canvas seems a crude and sensationalist drop-curtain when compared with Wright of Derby's eruption. Here the heat and glare of the exploding fire have a genuinely end-of-the-world force, encircled by scorched clouds and set against the weird stillness of the moonlit Bay of Naples beyond. Unlike

Voltaire, whose spectators are manifestly tourists, Wright ensures that his mournful figures are dressed in classical robes and carry a naked victim away from the inferno. The Neapolitan scene also offered other, less theatrical artists quieter satisfactions. Some of the most potent images in the Tate show are by that remarkable Welsh painter Thomas Jones, whose second stay in Naples yielded a wonderfully original sequence of oil studies. Small, unassuming and yet constructed with a grandeur worthy of Corot and Cézanne, these images herald the fascination with open-air painting that would transform the course of 19th-century art. Working on a flat roof above his apartment, Jones simplified his subjects with a lucidity and toughness matched only by Pierre-Henri de Valenciennes, whose contemporaneous oil sketches of a Roman rooftop are equally spare and limpid.

On the whole, though, the Milordi favoured unashamed showpieces. The 4th Duke of Bedford purchased Canaletto's elaborate paintings of the State Barge and Regatta, both enlivening Venetian waterways with their festive opulence. Their sheer popularity led Canaletto to be overwhelmed by incessant demands for the same views.

At its most scholarly, the British passion for antiquity led to the permanent enrichment of our national collections. Charles Townley's devotion to classical art led him to assemble a legendary collection, purchased after his death in 1805 by the British Museum. Zoffany's typically adroit painting shows the indefatigable Townley savouring his Westminster library, hemmed in by a claustrophobic profusion of marbles. Some, like the delicate head of Marcus Aurelius, are attractive images. But others have subsequently been demoted as Roman copies of Hellenistic originals. Far too many expensive purchases of excavated statuary turned out to be dubious prizes.

All the same, the Grand Tour also stimulated energies far more innovative than antiquarianism. Around 1798, the young Turner was commissioned by Sir Richard Colt Hoare to paint *Lake Avernus: Aeneas and the Sibyl*. The result, suffused with nostalgia for an irrecoverable golden age, sums up one side of the British passion for Italy. But Turner's luminous painting also marks the beginning of his own obsession with the Italian landscape, and it would culminate in canvases so visionary and dynamic that European painting would never be the same again.

Grand Tour, sponsored by Prudential, is at the Tate Gallery (0171-887 8000) until Jan 5

AROUND THE GALLERIES

IF YOU happen to be possessed of a famous name in the arts, it is always a moot point whether to flaunt it or to assume another name. This does not seem to have bothered Albert Rotherstein, youngest brother of William, early in his career, though during the First World War, he changed his name to Albert Rutherston and was posted to the Near East. As Rutherston he found a niche in the 1920s with illustrations and stage designs in a modestly spare, linear style. In the 1940s he had a late flowering as an oil painter, but his best work was in the decorative arts. There are a few oils at the Sally Hunter show, but it is in the book illustrations and theatre designs that Rutherston shines most brightly. Sally Hunter Fine Art, 11 Hatkin Arcade, SW1 (0171-235 0934) Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, until Oct 25.

LESLIE HURRY is another artist who has remained in the shade because his most brilliant work was for the theatre. Hurry began in the 1930s as a landscape painter, and moved rapidly towards the dream-haunted style of the Neo-Romantics. In 1941 Robert Helpmann asked him to design his ballet version of *Hamlet*. Subsequently he designed everything from *Tamara* to *Turandot*, and into Petipa's ballets. By the early 1960s he was heading towards abstraction, and in 1966 he emigrated to Canada. Unfortunately he was rapidly forgotten in his native England. Now would seem to be the time for revival, and a start is made at Marina Henderson with a choice retrospective of Hurry's theatrical designs. Marina Henderson, 11 Langton Street, SW10 (0171-352 1667) Tues-Fri 11am-6pm, until Oct 26.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

Ghoulies, ghosties and angels above

Psychologists tell us that artists are more in touch with the inner world that lies between fantasy and normality than any of us. Nowhere writer and critic Marina Warner, better known for her 1994 Reith Lectures on "Managing Monsters" than as an exhibitions curator, has taken the intermediary role of artists as the basis of *The Inner Eye: Art Beyond the Visible*.

She has chosen works of Western European art from national collections such as the British Museum and the Fitzwilliam in Cambridge to explore the world of dreams and fantasies made visible. Some images are very little known, some are ephemeral, all of them are powerful and thought-provoking.

Warner's message is that we need to hold on to this legacy of visual symbols or it will be lost, and we shall be the poorer for it. Contemporary culture, with its rapid turnover of pictures through the media, threatens to supplant this widely understood language of the imagination that connects us with our distant past. Our first taste of the fantastic is to be encouraged to take off our own shoes and stand in contemporary artist Marina Abramovic's amethyst *Shoes for Departure*. Faintly mauve in colour, they are carved in the shape of amethyst crystals, and their coolness is the steady antidote to any overheating of the imagination that might follow. The presiding genius of the show is

Isabel Carlisle drifts through dreams and fantasies in the Hayward's touring exhibition

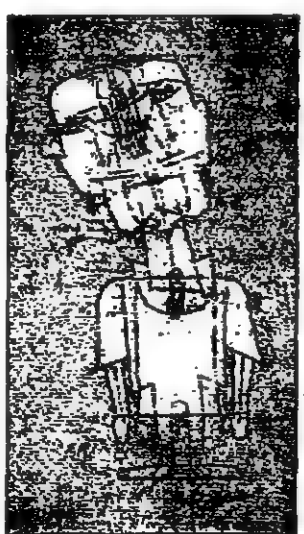
Dante, and the route through the sections — "Through" (contacting the invisible), "Between" (elves, fairies and dragons), "Within" (symbols of human passions), "Below" (hell and demons) and "Above" (heaven and angels) — echoes the *Divine Comedy*. In "Through" Warner has assembled a New Guinea dream stool from the Freud Museum; an illustrated book by a follower of Madame Blavatsky's Theosophical movement which influenced Klee and Kandinsky; a *Book of Fate* owned by Napoleon with a hieroglyphic chart for predicting the future; Gustave Moreau's little *Sappho* which shows the Greek poetess asleep on the Lesbos cliffs; and much more.

"Within" tackles Surrealism and painters who turned their eyes inward, such as Paul Klee, who encouraged artists to enter secret worlds and make them visible. A real treat here is Max Klinger's 1881 engravings on the dream sequence called *The Finding of a*

Glove. Dropped by an elegant lady in the rollerskating rink, the buttoned glove becomes an object of veneration (lying on a flat rock, a sacred flame burning on either side, next to a midnight-black and rose-covered sea) and desire, as well as nightmarish anxiety. Too elaborately strange to describe in detail, these are some of the most haunting images in the show.

Haunting by fabulous creatures, and the prototypes of images that lodged in our imaginations in childhood, is the subject of "Between". "Below" moves into death and damnation, apocalyptic visions and witchcraft. William Blake imagines Satan as a radiant being with flame-shaped wings and human frustration, failing to achieve the love, knowledge and liberty that he longs for. George Romney's *Meeting of the Three Witches and Hecate* is just as one would imagine an 18th-century production of *Macbeth*, while contemporary prints by Goya such as demons clipping their toenails in *They Spruce Themselves Up* have an immediacy to be expected from an artist haunted by night terrors.

Compare a "spontaneous photograph" taken in 1969 of a satanic cloud above the Statue of Liberty (horns and all) with the Victorian artist John Martin's *The Face of God upon the Waters*. Martin's ink-black print shows the face of God materialising in the vapours that hang over the newly-created scene.



Secret worlds: Paul Klee's Ghost of a Genius (1922)

This is a highly personal show, as have been the two preceding National Touring Exhibitions in this series generated by the Hayward Gallery, curated by artists Deanna Petherbridge and Michael Craig-Martin. The logic by which *The Inner Eye* is organised is more cerebral than visual, which makes some of the categories anomalous — angels, for instance, are found in almost every section, and the evolution of the pagan classical figure of the winged Eros into the angel of Christianity is left tantalisingly unexplored. I would also have liked more background on the wall labels. Being forced to take art at face value can be baffling as well as stimulating. But I am all for provocative exhibitions.

The Inner Eye: Art Beyond the Visible is at Manchester City Art Galleries to Nov 3, then Brighton Museum and Art Gallery (Nov 23 to Jan 3); Cliven Vision Art Gallery, Swansea (Jan 18 to Mar 9); and Dulwich Picture Gallery, London (Apr 10 to Jan 1)

CLASSICAL CHOICE

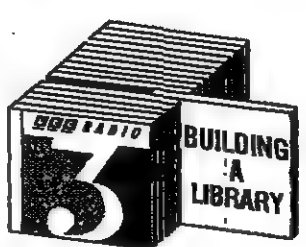
A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

RAVEL'S PIANO TRIO reviewed by William Mitchell

Ravel completed his Trio for piano, violin and cello shortly after the outbreak of war in August, 1914. The war was to mark Ravel deeply. After 1917, when he was invalided out of the army, his music would take on a much darker hue. So the Trio turned out to be the last of that series of limpid and sunny works which had established Ravel as a true master of the French lyrical tradition.

The Trio is complex and demanding and many of the available recordings can be uneven. The excellent Beaux Arts Trio have two versions currently available, recorded in 1956 (Philips 446 360-2) and 1983 (Philips 411 141-2). Of these the 1956 version is the stronger. It handles the constant shifts of mood and tempo in the enigmatic first movement with skill and poise. But the 1950s sound quality seriously gets in the way.

The Joachim Trio (Naxos 8550934) is a good budget choice. There are some wayward moments and the acoustic might be a little over-reverberant for some. But there is a nice grasp of musical nuance and more than a hint of Wagner at the climax of the passacaglia third movement. And although they can be a bit over-fussy, the Borodin Trio



(Chandos CHAN 8458) are, as always, passionate.

Both recordings by the Nash Ensemble are assured and technically fluent. But of the two the more recent, on Virgin Classics (VC 5 45016-2), is the more gutsy and imaginative. It could perhaps do with a little more magic, and the final moments of the last movement are played with an energy which makes it sound like the climax to an early work by Messiaen. It is magnificent but might not be to everybody's taste.

But my main recommendation is for the version by Vladimir Ashkenazy with Itzhak Perlman and Lynn Harrell in their 1994 Decca recording (44 4318-2, £15.95). They simply get much deeper into the music than do any of the others. It's a performance that glitters with the colours of Ravel's musical vision. And the ending is bathed in the brilliant sunlight and the optimism of that August day when Ravel put the finishing touches to the score.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times CD Mail to 250 Western Avenue, London W3 6XZ or freephone 0200 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk
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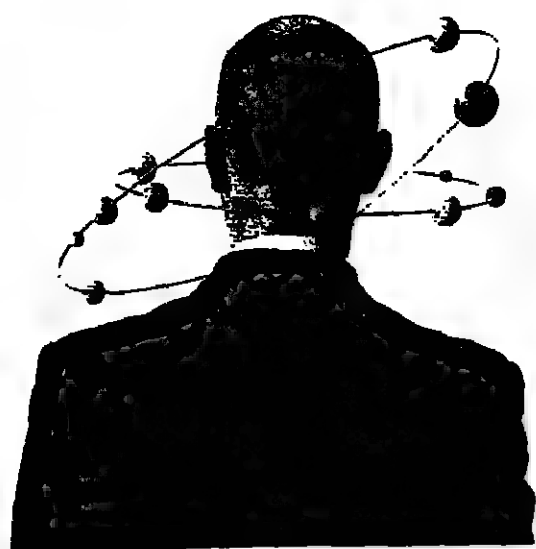
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LAW

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Invasion of the giants



Manchester's G-Mex centre, one of the venues for the Law Society conference, and a source of pride for legal grandee Rodger Pannone, below

David Conn finds out why the legal landscape of Manchester has totally changed in the past decade

The arrival in Manchester of almost 1,000 solicitors for this weekend's Law Society conference is being hailed in the city as more significant than a mere opportunity to drag a London-centred profession up North. The source of pride is the two venues: the G-Mex centre, unveiled in 1986 in the shell of the previously derelict Central Station, and the Bridgewater Concert Hall, the newest in Manchester's series of regenerative civic projects.

"This city has made great progress," enthuses the legal grandee and ebullient survivor Rodger Pannone, past Law Society president, chairman of the Bridgewater trustees and perennial Mancunian advocate. "Manchester is becoming a genuine European city, second only to London as a commercial centre."

That claim contrasts with the currently cowed, defensive tone of the city's native legal profession. Ten years ago, local solicitors could hardly have foreseen today's situation, which finds many of them struggling to compete with a coterie of giants, largely arrivals from outside. Then, with hardly a London or Leeds firm in sight, well-established 15-partner commercial firms prospered on work from northwest companies and financial institutions. Bread and butter, as now, came from insurance companies, whose personal injury work still largely supports the likes of James Chapman, Lace Mawer and other defendant firms.

The Eighties provided opportunities for commercial expansion, something Pannone himself did alongside his disaster-law practice (now disbanded), and for fresh starts by some breakaway lawyers. Addleshaw Sons and Latham, though small compared with City firms, had little real competition in Manchester for blue chip work. Times were good and marketing was basic.

Alsop Stevens, which has since been involved in two major mergers, was the first Liverpool firm to arrive, in 1984, followed by Lace Mawer in 1988 and Davies Wallis Foyner. But talk of "merger mania", always a little parochial, looks almost laughable now, as Manchester law firms nervously compare their size with the new Leeds-based invaders. A further round of mergers is expected: a watershed brought into focus last week by the merger of Alsop Wilkinson and Dobb Lupton Broomhead.

The new firm, Dobb Lupton Alsop, has 234 staff locally, edging close to the 286 of Addleshaw, but is backed,

unlike Addleshaw, by a national structure and 215 partners, making it the country's seventh-biggest law firm.

The deal was announced triumphantly by Paul Nicholls, regional managing partner. He said: "This marriage will place us at the top of the premiership in Manchester." Expanding on its likely effect in Manchester, Mr Nicholls said he hoped work that previously went to London would stay in the city. He expected a "realignment": mergers of medium-size practices and the emergence of a group of four or five big firms. "I would be surprised," he commented, "if Addleshaw did not respond."

The rumours, always flowing in what remains a close professional community, have long been that Manchester's flagship commercial firm will soon bow to the inevitable and merge with Booth & Co, its Leeds partner in the Norton Rose M5 group.

Paul Lee, the managing partner, though bristling at



suggestions that the move is now essential, does not deny the inexorable logic of economies of scale or that there have been talks. "We will be considering our position," he said.

If the merger takes place, Manchester's legal landscape will have utterly changed in a decade. Dobb Lupton, Booth & Co and Hammond Suddards, all originally from Leeds, would be very strong in the city, as would Eversheds, whose Manchester firm merged with the Leeds office last year. This is a far cry from 1990, when Dobb Lupton Broomhead was the first to slip into Manchester, taking over a small local practice.

Manchester firms were unimpressed when Hammond Suddards arrived in 1993; a story was going around that a lorry was bringing files over the Pennines to keep staff busy. The rumour was dismissed as "nonsense" by Richard Burns, Manchester managing partner. The scoffs have faded now as the firm has grown to 15 partners and, says Mr Burns, is consistently winning work from local firms.

"Manchester's lawyers can't be blamed," said Mr Burns of the colonisation by Leeds. "This is a big commercial centre and I think there was enough work to keep the lawyers happy. In Leeds a number of ambitious firms developed and the northeast market was not big enough to satisfy them all."

Mr Pannone, who sees the

latest merger as a signal for local firms to examine their survival prospects, fondly recalls the old days. "The lawyers were good, but it was more relaxed," he said. "We used to go to the Kardomah coffee house several times a week, we drank alcohol with lunch — remember that? But we may have been complacent. It would have changed, anyway, but the Leeds firms have provided the catalyst."

Nigel Kissack, Paul Nicholls's other half in the Dobb Lupton Alsop merger, was always convinced of the need to grow. "We have to drive unit costs down," he said, "in order to invest for the future and build new markets."

Manchester lawyer-talk was never like this in the Kardomah, which has long since closed. The conference rooms of G-Mex and the Bridgewater Hall this weekend, though, will no doubt resound with official approval to the exigencies of this new commercial language.

Juries can cope with a defendant's form

Viscount Sankey explained in a 1935 judgment that "one of the most deeply rooted and jealously guarded principles of our criminal law" is that the jury in a criminal trial is not told about the previous convictions of the defendant. The Law Commission has issued a consultation paper, *Evidence in Criminal Proceedings: Previous Misconduct of a Defendant*, which contains a comprehensive and illuminating analysis of the content of English law, the manner in which the problems are resolved in other jurisdictions, and the options for change. The Law Commission has invited comments by October 31 on whether, and if so how, the law should be amended.

The justifications advanced for the existing rule excluding evidence of the bad character of the accused are that such material is not relevant to proof of guilt of the offence charged, or that any probative value is outweighed by its prejudicial effect. The concern is that if previous convictions were admissible evidence, juries would focus their attention less on the allegation before the court, and more on the assumption that if the defendant has done it before, then he or she must have done it again. These justifications are unconvincing. They proceed from the patronising assumption that juries will act irrationally to the conclusion that the law of evidence should hide information which may help the jury to decide criminal cases.

In a 1995 judgment in the House of Lords, Lord Griffiths pointed out that in the past, when "jurors were often uneducated and illiterate, and the penal laws were of harsh severity", and when those on trial could not be heard in their own defence, judges developed rules of evidence designed to protect defendants from the risk that convictions might be based on prejudice rather than a fair evaluation of the facts. As Lord Griffiths explained: "Today, with better educated and more literate juries, the value of those old restrictive rules of evidence is being re-evaluated and many are being discarded or modified."

Juries today are well able to understand that the fact that a defendant has committed a dozen previous burglaries in the past five years does not prove the defendant is guilty of the charge of burglary before the court. But when a jury is considering whether the charge is proved beyond a reasonable doubt, the previous conduct of the defendant is relevant both to propensity to commit this crime and the credibility of any account which the defendant may give.

It is insulting to the intelligence and fairness of juries for the law to proceed on the

basis that a jury will assume guilt if told about the previous convictions of the defendant, rather than give such information proper weight alongside all the other evidence adduced at the trial.

Indeed, the law has allowed important exceptions to the principle that juries must be shielded from knowledge of the defendant's previous convictions. The prosecution may be allowed to rely on "similar fact evidence" of earlier offences. Some statutes allow the jury to be told about a defendant's previous convictions — for example, as evidence tending to prove that a person who has handled stolen goods knew or believed the goods to be stolen. If a defendant impugns the character of a prosecution witness, or gives evidence against a co-accused, the judge may allow reference to be made to the defendant's previous convictions. There is no reason to think that allowing juries to have such information in these exceptional cases has resulted in emotional, rather than reasoned, decisions being made by juries.

As well as lacking any coherent principle, the rules of evidence are self-contradictory, and produce real practical difficulties. Since a judge is obliged to direct a jury that a defendant's good character is relevant to credibility and to propensity to commit crime, it is perverse to conceal another defendant's bad character from the jury. When there are co-defendants, judges face what the Court of Appeal described in 1993 (with considerable understatement) as the "difficult problem" of how to direct juries about the good character of one defendant, without hinting at the bad character of another defendant. Moreover, an experienced jury will probably infer, from the absence of any reference to character, that a defendant has previous convictions.

As the Law Commission observed, consideration of the need for law reform is impeded by Section 8 of the Contempt of Court Act 1981, which prohibits any research (even by the Lord Chancellor's Department) into how Crown Court juries actually conduct their deliberations. But it does not need research to establish that if modern juries need to be shielded from information because of a risk that they may behave in an arbitrary manner, it is jury trial itself that needs to be justified.

The laws of evidence impede the ability of the criminal justice system to determine the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Radical reform is urgently required.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



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CLIFFORD CHANCE is an international law firm with offices in 23 business and financial centres worldwide.

The Employment Unit in Clifford Chance's London office handles all aspects of contentious, advisory and transactional employment law work and now wishes to recruit up to three additional employment lawyers to join a well established, growing team.

Successful applicants are likely to be solicitors or barristers with between two and five years' post-qualification experience (or its equivalent) as employment practitioners. Experience of multi-jurisdictional (particularly European) projects would be an advantage. Applicants should be able to develop relationships across different practice areas and with clients from a variety of sectors.

A commitment to employment law and willingness to take on a substantial, high calibre, workload in this increasingly complex area of the law, is essential.

If you are interested please write with your career details or telephone:

Val Spence
Personnel Manager

200 Aldersgate Street
London EC1A 4JJ

Tel: 0171 600 1000
Fax: 0171 600 5555

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Keeping Inn touch

HAVE the Inns of Court ceased to be the exclusive preserve of barristers? There is disquiet in some quarters over the status of barristers who qualify as solicitors, then refuse to take the Bar Council's advice to disbar.

This summer, the Bar Council gave up moves to force barristers to disbar on becoming solicitors after it received legal advice that such a move would not be possible, although a Bar Council paper described the situation as "only likely to cause confusion".

Now it is the turn of the Inns to make a fuss. The problem has been sparked by the Law Society's decision to stop requiring barristers to disbar. The Inns are now looking into whether they can stop barristers who become solicitors from remaining members.

Winning chips

FOOTBALL has come home to Edge & Ellison in Birmingham. Sir Bert Millichip, and his son, Peter, have joined the

INNERS AND OUTS

firm Richard Alderson, head of sport at the firm, says: "Sir Bert practised law until he became fully involved with the Football Association and at 52 he is remarkably active in the sport. Peter wants to specialise in sports law and to exploit his football world contacts."

Free care advice

HELP the Aged last week won leave to bring a judicial review against a Merseyside council, which is not paying the care-home fees of more



New role: Sir Bert Millichip

than 47 elderly people. In the first case of its kind, the charity won the go-ahead to challenge Section Metropolitan Council over its decision not to pay for the care of 47 elderly people whose individual assets have fallen below £16,000. Meanwhile, old people worried about going into a care home can obtain free legal and financial advice. The National Solicitors' Network has joined with Homes Select, which publishes magazines on care of the aged, to run a free helpline for old people and their families.

Image problems

IT SEEMS that the Law Society's attempts to give its complainants body a more positive image have fallen at the first hurdle. The Solicitors Complaints Bureau has recently been relaunched under the name Office for the Supervision of Solicitors. The word "complaint" was dropped from the new name to create a more positive image. But the

first acronym of Ofsol had to be dropped after government officials pointed out that the "Of" prefix was kept for its own regulatory bodies.

The new acronym is OSS, but its many opponents have cottoned onto the fact that if you drop the O, you get SS.

● **AT THE** recent Bar conference, Dr Angela Gallup's comment that any Tom, Dick or Harriet with minimal scientific training but sufficient brass "could set up in business as forensic scientists should have read 'sufficient brass neck'."

Last words

HOSTILITIES have broken out between the Law Society and the Consumers' Association about drafting of wills. A report by Which? claims that solicitors' will-drafting skills are no better than those of banks, life insurers and specialist will-writers. Only 12 out of 52 were judged "good" by an expert panel.

Tony Giffing, the society president, has disputed the interpretation of the findings. He says that half the wills, nine out of 19, written by solicitors were rated "good".

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The strength of our approach has been proven by the fact that we are now one of the UK's leading firms and have enjoyed consistent growth and expansion, especially in fields such as Intellectual Property where an increasing proportion of the work serviced out of each office is international. As a result of this growth, we are looking for ambitious, highly motivated individuals who are able to share our 'direct' approach to join us in London, Leeds and Manchester.

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- Two positions for 'hard' IP specialists, one of approximately two years' and one of four years' PQE with patent experience, some non-contentious if desired.
- A multi-media/soft IP lawyer of four years' PQE, exclusively non-contentious.

Leeds

- Two positions for IP generalists (predominantly non-contentious) one of one to two years' and one of four years' PQE.

Manchester

- Approximately two years' broad range of IP and IT work both contentious and non-contentious.
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Alternatively, write to Joe Macrae at ZMB, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Fax: 0171 247 5174. E-mail: joe@zmb.co.uk Web site: <http://www.zmb.co.uk>

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LONDON POSITIONS

PROPERTY PARTNER £75-200,000

Progressive MNP aiming to build full service UK practice, seeks to make first drive appointment of senior property lawyer. Senior solicitor on track for partnership as their current firm and show clearly as a senior level will be considered provided they can deliver sufficient growth and management skills to make an immediate impact in this competitive market place. In return the rewards, both financial and professional, will be hard to match. (Ref:7631)

MEDIA LAWYER TO £47,500

Dynamic, exceptionally successful media department offers talented 2-4 year qualified lawyers unparalleled experience in the film, television, production, distribution and merchandising sectors in addition to a growing sports law practice. Also has a growing name in the mobile and satellite communications sectors. You will be joining one of the City's most profitable firms at a time when its market share is increasing across the board and where the fast tracking of successful young lawyers is the norm. (Ref:8055)

TELECOMS TO £50,000

Highly successful MNP seeks telecoms expert with excellent working knowledge of the EC competition regime to work on a challenging mix of regulatory and commercial work, alongside the more well known partners in this sector. One of the top names in the provision of world wide legal services, this firm is prepared to invest heavily on remote based staff of its commercial and legal staff by the level of resources being plugged into this law practice area. Prospects, salary and benefits will be hard to match. (Ref:7627)

TAX TO £45,000

Media City firm with excellent name in the corporate and media sectors seeks an ambitious and commercially aware tax solicitor with about four years' PQE. Will suit a technically excellent lawyer with superb interpersonal skills who is perhaps frustrated operating in a much larger team elsewhere in the City. Excellent opportunity to get onto the fast track at a firm that offers a uniquely different approach to its City competitors. (Ref:7930)

PENSIONS ASSISTANT £44-55,000

50 partner plus commercial firm with expanding pensions, employment and benefits practice seeks a solicitor qualified at the 3-5 year level. Will join a multi-disciplinary team which offers a supportive environment and top quality work. The firm is non-hierarchical, profitable and offers excellent career prospects for lawyers at this level seeking partnership in the short to medium term. (Ref:7958)

CONSTRUCTION TO £45,000

City firm with broad domestic and international client base has recently re-launched its construction practice and now seeks a 1-4 year qualified solicitor to join the team. Ideally with a background in construction work, you must be able to demonstrate a genuine interest in the building industry and the ability to deliver unprejudiced solutions oriented advice. (Ref:8077)

INSOLVENCY PARTNER £75-125,000

Blue chip medium sized City firm with excellent track record of senior level integration now seeks to complement its expertise in the corporate sector by attracting a senior non-contentious insolvency practitioner. Will also into team that has been given the resources to develop a practice with a proven ability to attract new and repeat work. Highly profitable, well managed practice. (Ref:7743)

CORPORATE TO £55,000

The growth of this 20-40 partner firm's practice in the corporate sector is a prime example of what can be achieved through effective cross-selling and a non-aggressive approach to practice development. The level of corporate work has risen beyond all expectations and of corporate work has given rise to a requirement for an assistant at the 4-5 year level to join this young team. If, any, solicitors have joined at this level and not made it on to the next paper. (Ref:5673)

CAPITAL MARKETS TO £70,000

A quick place at the vacancies advertised recently leaves no doubt that capital markets remains an area of great demand. A number of top City firms (both UK and US) urgently require capital markets lawyers with up to 5 years' experience. There are outstanding opportunities for ambitious, motivated and bright lawyers who are keen to develop a high personal profile in this exceptionally fast developing practice area. (Ref:7720)

COMMERCIAL LIT TO £42,000

This dynamic medium sized City firm has developed a very impressive litigation practice by attracting senior lawyers and work of the highest quality, cross-selling into the firm's extensive client base and drawing on personal contacts. The firm has an opportunity for a top rate 1-2 year qualified litigator to handle a mix of commercial disputes. Will suit a lawyer from a large City firm keen to play a front line role and work towards a real prospect of partnership. (Ref:7912)

IP LITIGATION TO £45,000

Medium sized City firm has recently expanded its IP practice by attracting a new partner. This gives the firm a full service practice in this area and they are keen to invest further by attracting an IP generalist with 3-4 years' experience to handle copyright, trademark, trade marks and patent litigation. The firm prides itself on a collegial atmosphere and constructive approach to career development. (Ref:8046)

EMPLOYMENT TO £45,000

Dynamic employment team at top City firm seeks assistant with 2-4 years' relevant PQE for a challenging mix of work, predominantly advising employers on various and sundry employment claims, redundancy, race and discrimination and a whole variety of related employment matters. A commercial, yet sensitive approach is required and the successful candidate must, therefore, be able to demonstrate superb client skills. (Ref:7967)

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For further information on in-house vacancies please contact Lisa Miles on 0171-377 0510 (0171-725 5548 evenings/weekends). For private practice vacancies please contact Andrew Golding, Yvonne Phillips or Yvonne Smyth on 0171-377 0510 (0171-226 3163 evenings/weekends). Alternatively write to us at Zarak Macrae Brenner, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax: 0171-247 5174 E-mail: andy@zmb.co.uk

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The Equitas Group has been formed to reinsure the liabilities of Lloyd's of London syndicates in respect of 1992 and prior business (other than life business). This reinsurance, which was completed at the beginning of September, is believed to be the largest single series of reinsurance transactions ever written.

Equitas manages the run-off of the business, is reinsured, including claims handling and reinsurance recoveries. It is seeking to strengthen its in-house legal team with the appointment of two lawyers to highly demanding roles in the following areas:-

- (i) Insurance/reinsurance (ii) corporate/commercial

You will have at least 8 years' post qualification experience in the respective disciplines and be currently in either private practice or in-house.

Above all you will have a highly developed commercial approach, proven negotiating skills, and a desire to move into an environment that will expect a high degree of professionalism. In return you will receive a competitive remuneration package.



For further information in complete confidence, please contact Seamus Hoar on 0171 405 6062 (0171 403 5727 evenings/weekends) or write to him at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London, WC1R 4JH. Confidential Fax: 0171 831 6394. This assignment is being handled on an exclusive basis by Quarry Douglall and any direct or third party applications will be forwarded to them.

SHORT SPL TERM

SPECIAL PROJECT LAWYER

JUNIOR COMMERCIAL

Major utility, based in the Home Counties, seeks a solicitor/barrister of around 2 years' PQE to cover for a 6-9 month maternity leave. Candidates must have excellent academic, in addition to a heavyweight commercial background with experience in either joint ventures, project finance or loan agreements. Ref: 29904

CORPORATE/BANKING

International bank based in the City seeks a solicitor/barrister with around 3-6 years' PQE to act as number 2 lawyer in a small legal department. Candidates must have practical knowledge of company law, contract law, ISDA documentation and banking documentation. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 17210

COMMERCIAL

IT company based in Essex seeks a solicitor/barrister with 2-4 years' commercial experience for 3-6 month contract. Candidates will be working in a small legal team and will be drafting and negotiating contracts as well as dealing with more general commercial issues. Ref: 29604

RESIDENTIAL CONVEYANCING

City based commercial practice seeks experienced residential conveyancer to assist with estate conveyancing. Candidates will be dealing with a heavy workload on a relatively unsupervised basis. To start immediately for a rolling contract. Ref: 56

COMMERCIAL/EC

Well established commercial firm seeks a 2-4 year qualified solicitor for their commercial department. Candidates must have good negotiating and drafting skills on the commercial side with strong EC exposure. Contract will be for 3-6 months. Ref: 29654

CORPORATE

1-4 years' qualified solicitor sought by leading City law firm for a contract which may last up to a year. Candidates must have strong academic and a City firm background. Range of work will be extremely diverse covering takeover bids and defences, acquisitions, disposals, mergers and joint ventures. Ref: 28508

COMPANY/COMMERCIAL

Solicitor with 3-6 years' PQE sought by insurance company. Candidates should have a strong company/commercial background and will be assisting the head of legal with a heavy workload in relation to high profile matters. Contract will be for 3-6 months and is to start immediately. Ref: 30154

FINANCE/COMMERCIAL

Solicitor with 4-5 years' PQE sought by leading insurance company, based in the North of England. Candidates should have a commercial background. Experience of loan facilities, venture capital and pensions is essential. Contract is to start immediately and will continue until June 1997. Ref: 29953

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Medium-sized commercial firm seeks 3 solicitors to assist with a heavy workload. Candidates must have a minimum of 2 years' experience and will be assisting on a major transaction. Contract will initially be for about 2 months. Ref: 29808

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

6 month contract for a 3-6 years' qualified solicitor to work in a small team for this medium-sized law firm. Candidates will be handling high profile patent claims, licences and distribution agreements. To start immediately. Ref: 30089

For further information please call Nicky Rutherford-Jones or Emma Hopkins on 0171-405 6062 (0171-350 0682 or 0181-540 2381 evenings/weekends) or write to us at Special Project Lawyer, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171 831 6394.

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assume responsibility for a number of the Virgin subsidiaries. You should be computer literate, the computer package used is Secretariat for Windows, although previous experience of this software is not a prerequisite.

The successful candidate is likely to enjoy the technical side of company secretarial work, and will have a confident and mature attitude as there will be frequent contact with internal and external professional advisers to the company. Virgin is a fast moving company, and a flexible, commercial approach will be needed to succeed in this role.

Salary package negotiable.

For further details please contact Fiona Boxall or Jane Wallace or send them your CV.

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BRISTOL

Well established firm is now seeking a high calibre residential property lawyer with at least 3 yrs' PQE. Attractive salary.

OXON

Highly regarded practice is currently seeking a new Probate and Trust Manager with 2 yrs+ relevant experience.

CORNWALL

Well regarded firm has a potential opening for a confident Co/Comm solicitor with at least 1 yr's PQE, preferably 2-3 yrs' PQE.

DEVON

Rare opportunity at established firm for a bright solicitor with 1-4 yrs' PQE to handle mix of plaintiff & defendant P.I. matters.

OXON

Commercial Property Outstanding post for a lawyer with 5-10 yrs' PQE to play a key role in developing this expanding property department.

HANTS

Residential Property Excellent opportunity for a NQ-2 yr residential property lawyer to join thriving multi-office practice. Plenty of scope for practice development and real 'hands on' experience.

Litigation

Young, exciting IP/IT team have an urgent requirement for a bright young lawyer due to a flood of new instructions. Superb working atmosphere.

PRIVATE CLIENT

Two rare vacancies in unusually expanding Private Client department in highly respected City firm for bright lawyers seeking a challenging work in a friendly team.

INSOLVENCY

Top City firm with an excellent reputation in this field seeks a non-contentious lawyer, with at least 6 mths' relevant experience in articles. Excellent training offered.

IP LITIGATION

Strong litigator with first class soft IP exp'ts is sought by high profile team. Working with a young charismatic partner superb work & strong prospects are offered.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Major City firm with growing Environmental team seeks high calibre lawyer, ideally from an established firm. Superb prospects and remuneration.

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Major firm seeks a personal injury solicitor with experience in a large City firm, to handle a good mix of plaintiff and defendant work. Excellent career move.

6 mths-2 yrs

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2-6 yrs

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Top City firm with an excellent reputation in this field seeks a non-contentious lawyer, with at least 6 mths' relevant experience in articles. Excellent training offered.

2-5 yrs

Strong litigator with first class soft IP exp'ts is sought by high profile team. Working with a young charismatic partner superb work & strong prospects are offered.

2-4 yrs

Major City firm with growing Environmental team seeks high calibre lawyer, ideally from an established firm. Superb prospects and remuneration.

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Strong non-contentious IP lawyer is offered early responsibility and strong prospects by leading IP department in major firm. Superb career move.

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Fast track to partnership is offered to high calibre lawyer seeking a challenging workload and strong autonomy in leading City firm. Superb EEE

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Leading EC/Competition team in popular City firm seeks a high calibre lawyer, currently working in another major firm. Fast track opportunity.

For further information, please call Liz

Neser (Provinces) or Caroline Fish (London) on 0171 430 1711, or write to Graham Gill & Young, 46 Kingsway, London WC2B 6EN. Fax: 0171 831 4186.

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In the flash: Mark Stephens, left, with Paula Yates

Mark Stephens, Mr Front Page

Frances Gibb meets a man in the news

The front page of daily newspapers is home territory for Mark Stephens, media lawyer with a host of high-profile clients. But last week was exceptional, even by his standards: his clients — Ian Greer, the lobbyist at the centre of the cash-for-questions furore, and Paula Yates, who is fighting Bob Geldof for custody of their children — graced the front of tabloids and quality papers every day.

And to cap it, Mr Stephens, as a tribunal member of the Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, was also adjudicating on whether the taped chatlines of Madame Vasso with the Duchess of York could be broadcast on 0800 lines. The tribunal said they could not.

"Even for me it was busy," he said. "The media coverage of the day Paula Yates was at court was overwhelming. I have done some big cases and usually after the press have got their photos they go away. But that day was like being swept under a tidal wave."

He was looking remarkably robust after a fortnight that included: work on a multimillion-pound trademark fraud action; a day in North Wales at the Waterhouse child abuse inquiry; a day in court defending a journalist on a contempt

Bad marks or bad marking?

Dissatisfied students are increasingly suing educational institutions. For decades there has been an arena of professional negligence litigation into which physicians and lawyers have been dragged but, until now, teachers and lecturers have been rarely summoned.

In May Simon Zekaria issued a writ against the Chancellor, Masters and Scholars of the University of Cambridge alleging breach of contract and negligence. Mr Zekaria had studied for his GCSE examinations at University College School in London, but received a low grade from the Midland Examining Group (now the Cambridge group) for the English literature paper he sat in June 1994. He and his teachers expected a high grade, and the paper was re-marked by the board on application by the school. A "D" grade was confirmed. The disagreement led to a third marking of the paper in June 1995, but this, too, he claims was unsatisfactory.

The writ alleges that the examinations board was cursory and superficial, and says that, as a result, Mr Zekaria lost the chance to study English at his first choice of university.

Students are suing, reports Gary Slapper

A central claim in this case is to be determined by the court is whether, on the balance of probabilities, it is true that the candidate's papers were not marked fairly and with reasonable skill and care. The law here is governed by one of the most famous English legal principles: the duty of a person to exercise reasonable care towards his "neighbour".

The courts have had relatively little problem defining the standard of care required from people doing everyday things like driving a car or attaching a handle to a door. But the need to formulate precisely the standard required from experts such as doctors and engineers has posed more of a challenge.

Why is litigation in the education sector rising? Society is becoming more rights-conscious and litigious. This is the age of the charter and a profusion of media legal advice columns and programmes. Charities have also been issued by the Department for Education and by universities themselves to help

in the competition to recruit good students.

Then there is the growing personal financial stake in education of students and their parents. Many students now work long hours to fund studies, or are sponsored by parents at great financial sacrifices. Next year, some universities are considering charging students £1,000 top-up fees to meet a shortfall in government spending. A recent Barclays Bank found the average debt of finalists in 1996 was up 32 per cent on last year.

In such a context student dissatisfaction with course quality or with exam results is more clearly foreseeable than 20 years ago. But certain problems will arise if judges have to cultivate negligence law in relation to the delivery of education. One challenge will come from the rule that although deviation from proper practice creates liability, the nature of "proper practice" is affected by time and place.

Tony Weir, a leading authority in the field, observed: "One cannot demand from a garage in the Highlands of Scotland the same standard of expedition and professional competence which can be hoped for in the metropolis." In 1937 a woman became ill after an allegedly negligent



Foecke: inquiry was ordered after he won a first-class degree

ear-piercing by a man who worked for a jeweller. Mr Justice Goffard rejected her claim, ruling that the standard of work was reasonable for a lay expert. Will the standards be expected of academics and examiners depend upon the level of their experience and qualifications?

Litigation against universities is not just confined to actions for negligence or breach of contract. In July a ten-year campaign by a former Bristol University student ended when his case was rejected in the Court of Appeal. In 1986, Francis Foecke was awarded a first-class degree in

mathematics. An inquiry was ordered when his answers were found to mirror the model answers prepared by the examiner, including some errors. His first-class degree was withdrawn. Mr Foecke, who spent £50,000 pursuing various legal actions, may now take the case to Europe.

The medical profession has already faced a huge growth in litigation in the past 20 years. The cost of medical insurance has soared and the art of "defensive medicine" has burgeoned, with practitioners encouraged to resort to procedures least likely to expose them to legal attack, even if not necessarily in the patients' best interests. The proportion of babies delivered by Caesarean section, for example, has quadrupled since 1977.

The immunity from court actions enjoyed by lecturers and examiners has resulted from social custom rather than legal rule. But student indulgence or reverence of lecturers is not what it was. If educational litigation follows the medical pattern, educators, too, may be forced to resort to legal insurance and change to "defensive grading" and "defensive lecturing".

Dr Gary Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law at Staffordshire University.

There are rich pickings to be had for lawyers as colleges and universities are forced into the commercial sector

Education changes mean a new role in the classroom

The explosion in legal work involving schools, colleges and universities is creating fertile territory for lawyers. Frances Gibb writes. It is not just high-profile challenges by students over results: universities and colleges are being forced into the commercial sector, with all the legal problems that brings with it.

The boom in work is one of the main factors behind the growth in turnover of Martineau Johnson, a Birmingham firm. Four years ago, the firm set up its pioneering education department with nine partners. Its turnover has since shot up by 500 per cent.

The 120-year-old firm has had links with both Birmingham and Aston universities since their foundation. It has also built a strong private client base — tax and charities

work, trusts, property — and the two areas fused into the new department in 1992.

Now the education team led by partners Simon Arrowood and his deputy Nicola Hart has 60 institutions on its books — including 19 universities, health bodies, charities and schools.

They advise on what they call "a wide range of issues sparked off by the pressures and friction at the interface of the public and private sectors". That range is vast — it covers challenges by students

and pupils, codes of practice and policy on use and abuse of the Internet, capital funding for building and other developments, including governance, powers and accountability; charters and consumer rights; protecting and exploiting research, and mergers and acquisitions.

The department hosts seminars and keeps clients posted via video conferencing, e-mail and Education Brief, its own publication.

Mr Arrowood says that the huge changes make it "unsurprising" that the education

sector is "fertile" legal ground. "Education Acts are passed nearly every year," he says. "There have been more than 30 since 1944. Then, as greater numbers of students go into further and higher education, from a broader range of ages, cultures and social classes than before, so more demands are made on institutions and more attention is focused on the quality of the product."

As in other sectors, consumerism is rife. Mr Arrowood says: "Armed with charters, students and parents come

with high expectations and are prepared to take action to enforce the rights of the individual against the institution which fails to meet the required standard."

The increasingly "savage" budget cuts, coupled with the Government's Private Finance Initiative, have forced institutions to seek to raise capital and research funds from the private sector and abroad.

Universities are now also planning to raise more funds directly from students themselves. "Given that the rela-

tionship between institutions and students is basically contractual," Mr Arrowood says, "might a unilateral imposition of such fees be a breach of contract?"

Other problems can arise from a funding squeeze, including redundancies, increased use of short-term contracts, profit-related pay, and "poaching" of prestigious staff to boost research status, he says. Then there is discipline and security; discrimination and health and safety law; insurance and intellectual property.

The corporate language of deals and ventures, and the language of a whole host of other work from employment law to judicial review, is slowly starting to permeate academia. And lawyers are finding that they have a completely new role.

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NEW SALARY SURVEY 1996

We have recently completed our 1996 Salary Survey, compiled from data supplied by just under 100 firms and based on salaries paid to assistant solicitors and junior partners in September 1996. The results have been split into large, medium and small firms. The Survey has indicated that the average salary in small firms has increased by 7%, the average salary in medium firms is up by 2% and the average salary in large firms up by 1%.

The Survey indicates that large firms are maintaining the higher salaries, although small firms' salaries are catching up and interestingly, small firms on average pay more

for assistant solicitors than the medium sized firms. Large firms are defined as having more than 60 partners, medium sized firms as 25-60 partners and small firms less than 25 partners. The 1996 Survey is the first year we have recorded salaries for 6, 7 and 8 year qualified assistants.

More information is contained within the Salary Survey, including a comparison of salaries from 1995 and 1996. A copy of the Survey is available by contacting any of the consultants at Garfield Robbins. Alternatively, visit our web site: www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

LONDON: Contact Dominique W. Pengelly, Alison Barrett or Helen Wynn-Jones (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for further information in complete confidence. Evenings/weekends 0181 960 6144. Confidential fax: 0171 417 1444. www.garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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- Liaison with UK and foreign financial regulatory bodies.
- Management of all documents comprising the Exchange Rules.

You will be a qualified solicitor with 1-3 years' commercial/FSA experience gained either within private practice or a financial institution.

Essential qualities are strong organisational skills and a robust team-orientated, commercial personality.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Alison Jacobs on 0171-405 6662 (0171-731 5699 evenings/weekends) or write to her at Quarry House Commerce & Industry Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.



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AUTUMN LEAVES

INVESTMENT BANKING £40,000-£45,000
International investment bank with substantial central London presence now seeks junior solicitor with 1-3 years' experience to play a key role in its international finance and capital markets practice. You will be an ambitious, motivated lawyer with the desire to undertake a more commercial role in a multi-disciplinary environment and exposure to multi-jurisdictional transactional work. Outstanding prospects and remuneration offered.

INVESTMENT BANK - IN-HOUSE £45,000-£50,000
Highly regarded City office of leading international investment bank now requires lawyer with around two years' experience at a leading City law firm. You will be either a corporate or banking assistant, relishing the opportunity to advise external lawyers and departments at the bank on a range of corporate law, investment funds and compliance issues. Benefits package is at the top of City range providing a role for an ambitious junior solicitor keen to move out of private practice.

CORPORATE FINANCE £50,000-£55,000
In-house corporate department of international bank known for their professional expertise across a range of UK and overseas law, complex regulatory and VAT issues seeks City law firm with 4-6 years' experience of high quality corporate law to join its six strong international team. Your career opportunities will be outstanding in a department fully deserving of its outstanding internal and external reputation.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS £50,000-£55,000
Undoubtedly one of the current major growth areas, there is a terrific demand for able solicitors to handle high profile transactional as well as regulatory work. This City-based international firm has seen its telecoms practice blossom in the last two to three years, reflecting its corporate strength and push for quality. If you have 1-4 years' experience in a department well known for tackling fresh initiatives, this might be just up your street.

**KELLYFIELD
CONSULTING**

CORPORATE TAX £30,000-£38,000
Glittering array of multi-jurisdictional corporate tax work is the prize for an intellectual, talented and commercially minded 1-3 year qualified lawyer ambitious to take part in this leading firm's corporate tax team. Well managed tax department handles not only corporate/banking support work but also increasing volume of its own self-generated advisory and regulatory work.

PENSIONS £38,000-£45,000
Highly regarded top ten City firm at the cutting edge of developments in pensions law during recent years seeks self-starter with one to three years' experience. Outstanding opportunity to make an important long term contribution. If you enjoy both the advisory and transactional aspects of pensions law, why not come and have a chat?

CORPORATE FINANCE £48,000-£55,000
Internationally minded top City firm with excellent public company client base and commitment to innovative training enables 1-4 year qualified lawyer to join a close-knit department generating many of its own instructions to make an important long term contribution. If you enjoy both the advisory and transactional aspects of corporate law, why not come and have a chat?

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY £32,000-£47,000
This chip medium sized City firm, whose property department boasts a team of predominantly young partners, seeks to attract ambitious, but level-headed assistants at the 1-4 year mark. This firm is very definitely not a "sweat shop", has a low turnover of staff and prides itself on its partnership reputation. Unlike many property departments whose work is patchy, this firm's order book is full, with good technical and information back-up.

For more information, in strictest confidence on these or other career opportunities please feel free to contact Hugh Kelly or Mark Field on 0171 588 7878 (0171 226 9398 weekends) or write to them at Kellyfield Consulting, Moor House, 119 London Wall, London EC2Y 5ET. Confidential fax: 0171 588 7020.

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We can offer successful applicants the opportunity to develop their specialist skills across a range of challenging and stimulating projects – working in close contact with major international financial and corporate clients.

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Telephone: 0171 283 6000.

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CHAMBERS

Editor for the Directory

We are looking for a lawyer to take over as editor of Chambers & Partners' Directory. The position will appeal to a solicitor with experience in private practice who wishes to move into publishing.

The editor is responsible, above all, for ensuring that the editorial judgement of the directory is accurate. With each succeeding edition, we have strengthened our assessments of both law firms and individual practitioners. This has required us to be increasingly thorough in our research. The editor's role is to manage the research team, assess the team's findings, and produce text and tables which help the readers to find the lawyers they need. It goes without saying that this requires integrity, a sense of responsibility, and a genuine respect for practising lawyers in all areas of law.

A regard for detail is also important. The directory contains much in the editorial sections that is interesting but ultimately it is a work of reference, a huge assembly of information, and it must be factually correct. The editor must be able to see the legal profession as a whole, appreciating the relative importance of its various parts. However, equally important is the ability to concentrate on minutiae, to catch errors and inconsistencies.

This combination of aptitudes is rare. In addition, the editor must understand the directory as a commercial business, and have the skills to manage it as an independent profit centre.

If editing a legal directory appeals to you, please write to me with your CV.

Michael Chambers

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London, EC1A 9ET
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INDUSTRY & BANKING Sonya Rayner

Commercial Lawyer: Brussels
Excellent opportunity for ambitious young commercial lawyer to join dynamic legal dept of successful international firm. Must have sound business sense and enjoy travel. Good career prospects.

Engineering: South East
Solicitor with 3-4 yrs commercial exp to join legal dept of international engineering co. Work will include contract negotiations, project finance and construction agreements. Must have commercial acumen.

Banking: City
Solicitor with 1-2 yrs exp to join small legal dept of international bank. Must have sound exp of company law, ISDA and general banking documentation. Exp of FSA and taxation would be an advantage.

PRIVATE PRACTICE London: David Woolfson, Simon Anderson
South: Harriet Stow North & Midlands: Sula Baha

Editor of Legal Directory
Chambers & Partners' Directory, now in its seventh edition, needs an editor. For details, see the column on the left.

Entertainment: City
Well-known commercial firm with a growing media practice seeks 4 yr qual assistant, ideally with exp of film and television work. Excellent prospects.

Commercial Property: City
Broadly based medium-sized commercial firm (20% property) seeks 2-4 yr qual solicitor for investment, development & landlord & tenant.

Commercial Litigation: City
Large City firm with strong litigation practice seeks a 3-4 yr qual team lit asst to handle wide variety of court work for blue chip clients with minimal supervision.

Corp Tax Ptnr Designate: W End
Busy, niche specialist tax firm, able to counsel's clients, offers 4-7 yr qual solr jnr partnership. Work of very high quality & good City/W End exp sought.

Employment Lawyer: London
Solicitor with at least five years' experience to join established legal department of well-known retail group and handle contentious and non-contentious employment law, including advocacy.

Corporate Finance: City
Solicitor with 2-3 yrs commercial, corporate tax or corporate finance exp to join young, dynamic and successful specialist corporate finance organisation. Excellent career prospects. Must have good interpersonal skills.

Commercial: South East
Solicitor with at least 2 yrs exp to join legal dept of well-known hi-tech co. You will advise on corporate and commercial matters and will be encouraged to assist in the development of the company's business.

Medical Negligence: West End
Niche practice acting for high profile health sector clients seeks exp solr with excellent client skills & the ability to assume high level of responsibility.

Company/Commercial: City
This is an excellent time for 1-4 yr qualified solrs with leading Scottish or English provincial firms to gain City transactional exp with the major firms. To £48,000.

Corporate Finance: Manchester/Leeds
Several interesting positions now available for 0-5 yrs qualified corporate finance solitors.

Employment: Leeds
2-6 yr qualified employment specialist with either contract-cost exp or exp sought by leading firm.

Defendant PI: Oxfordshire
1-3 yr qual solr sought by niche firm, to handle def PI caseload for insurance clients. Def PI exp is essential.

NQ Commercial Property: London
Rare opening for a 0-18 mths qual solr to join property dept of forward thinking practice. Excellent prospects.

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You should be able to demonstrate good communication, advocacy and negotiating skills and be able to motivate and manage other lawyers. A thorough knowledge of Housing Law and an understanding of Local Government Law and practice are essential; management experience would be an advantage.

The post offers a wide variety of stimulating work and the opportunity to play a key role in Legal Services, making a vital contribution to the work of an innovative and progressive Department.

Additional benefits include flexible working and job share. Application forms can be obtained, quoting Ref: CEO/14/GSH, by telephoning Annette Thompson on 01895 250291 or writing to The Head of Corporate Legal Service, The London Borough of Hillingdon, SE/07 Civic Centre, Uxbridge, Middlesex UB8 1UW. Closing date for applications: 4th November 1996.

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Hong Kong

Freshfields is looking for an experienced finance or capital markets lawyer to fill a newly created role, running its information and know-how services for its network of Asian offices.

The task is to establish an Asia wide information and practice support system serving our lawyers doing client work. You will have overall responsibility for the organisation and maintenance of legal and technical know-how collections and internal current awareness services in Asia. This will require close liaison with the existing information and know-how services operated from our London office, and the co-ordination of work done by information officers in each of our Asian offices.

The job is based in Hong Kong, but will involve regular travel to our offices in the region. You will report to the Managing Partner of our Asian offices, also based in Hong Kong, and to the partner in charge of information and training for the firm as a whole, who is based in London.

You will have a minimum of 5 years post qualification experience, in one of the areas referred to above, and will be looking for a new challenge, away from the traditional role of a fee-earner in private practice.

Please write in the first instance, to Jonathon Hill at Freshfields, 65 Fleet Street, London EC4Y 1HS, enclosing your curriculum vitae and an outline of your experience

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SPANISH SPEAKING MARITIME LAWYER

Tindall, Riley & Co, Managers of the Britannia P&I Club, have a vacancy for a recently qualified lawyer to deal with all types of P&I claims as part of a small team. Fluency in Spanish is essential, some PQE an advantage.

Please send your CV with salary details to Peter Croft, Administration Director, Tindall, Riley & Co, New City Court, 20 St Thomas Street, London. SE1 9HR.

TRANSACTIONING IN ART: THE LEGAL PITFALLS

What are the penalties for misdescribing art or antiquities? What are the powers of the police in relation to stolen works of art and can the buyer get good title? What are the implications of artists' resale rights? What changes are occurring in the export licensing system?

All these questions will be considered at a seminar to be held by the Institute of Art and Law, in association with the Art Newspaper, on the afternoon of Tuesday October 29th at the British Museum.

For further details contact the Institute of Art and Law at 47 Fenchurch Street, Leicester, LE2 3BE; tel/fax: 0116 244 8870.

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Investment Banking

City

Banking/BFA Lawyer
Interesting role in US bank, within small legal team, for 1-3 year qualified corporate banking lawyer, ideally with significant BFA experience.
Ref 33265 - Claire Hine

Corporate Finance
Outstanding corporate finance openings for City lawyers with 0-2 years' exp and excellent academic records to join leading merchant bank.
Ref 23195 - Claire Hine

Repos/Stocklending
Major European bank requires senior stocklending/repo lawyer, based on the desk with responsibility for others. Highly pressurised environment.
Ref 32205 - Claire Hine

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Fax: 0171 242 1261
E-Mail: rs@reutersmith.co.uk

Swaps
Leading European bank seeks experienced derivatives lawyer with 3 years' exp. Must have good swaps experience and be a team-player.
Ref 33563 - Richard Pusey

Structured Confirmations
International investment bank seeks lawyers with 1-3 years' exp who have had some structured confirmations experience. Must thrive on pressure.
Ref 32196 - Richard Pusey

Derivatives
Major European investment bank requires derivatives lawyer with 1-3 years' exp gained with major City firm or bank. Excellent prospects.
Ref 32190 - Richard Pusey

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

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We are looking for a Property Practitioner to join our Chancery team. The ideal candidate will have 7-10 years experience in a Chancery environment and will be looking for a stronger administrative base from which to consolidate his/her practice.

We offer an attractive working environment, fully networked computer system, including electronic diary, messaging, law reports and tasking. Fully computerised accounting system. The use of a large Conference room and ancillary facilities.

Contact Shane Dougall in strictest confidence.

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Charles Salmon QC
Brian Warner
Nicholas Coleman
Jacqueline Samuel
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Paul Dodgson
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Christopher Hehir
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Katie Gies
Nina Graham
Christopher Poole

Senior Clerk: Deryk Butler

14th Court, Temple, London, EC4Y 7BE
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LDE 444 Chancery Lane.

Management Board Appointment

HEAD OF CORPORATE - MAJOR CITY FIRM
To £400,000

Are you a partner fed up with the complacent mediocrity of some of your partners who remain rewarded by age rather than ability?

Explore something refreshingly different.

This firm is undoubtedly one of the legal profession's success stories. Tightly managed and enjoying a clear corporate identity, the firm has witnessed rapid, yet studied, growth in the '90s and is one of the most profitable in the U.K.

It now wants to invest in according its Corporate Department the prominent reputation enjoyed by its other departments. A lawyer of outstanding ability and reputation is sought to mastermind this growth with the full support of the existing (younger) corporate partners.

With in excess of 10 years' experience, you will already be a partner at a leading firm, undertaking top flight corporate finance work to include M&A, flotations, listings, reorganisations and restructurings. Experience of working with financial services related clients would be advantageous but not essential.

The importance attached to this key appointment is reflected in the position you will adopt on joining. Brought in at the top of the equity, if appropriate, and with a position on the Management Board, you will have overall responsibility for the running of the department.

The firm continues to grow from strength to strength - do you wish to be a part of it?

For further information in complete confidence please contact Gareth Quarry or Stephen Rodney on 0171-405 6062 (0171-452 2904 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394. Initial discussions can be held on a no names basis.

QD
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NEW MOVES

CORPORATE

To £50,000
Corporate lawyers with 1-5 years' exp - your lucky numbers have just come up. Joining this top City firm is no gamble however because everyone's a winner. The scores on the doors read full range of quality City work, excellent pay, genuine prospects and a cuddly toy. Ref: T16259

EMPLOYMENT

To £45,000
Start taking your own advice, employment lawyers. Employees have rights too. Including the right to move on to a job where the money and work are better. This top 10 City firm offers just that if you have 2-4 years' exp and experience in contentious and/or non-contentious work. Ref: T28372

PROJECT FINANCE

To £60,000
It's a jungle out there, but all you need to do is cut through the undergrowth and make it to the clearing that is this top City firm, where you can swing through the trees as a project finance lawyer. All you need is 0-6 years' exp with some PP/Project finance knowledge. Ref: T21552

IN-HOUSE PROJECT FINANCE French national To £50,000
Oh la la. This is a job worth swimming the Channel for. French lawyer - need not be French qualified - needed by top international joint venture in the Midlands. Must be fluent in French and English and ideally have 2 years' exp in project finance, but commercial lawyers should also apply. Ref: T29842

EC/COMPETITION

To £Excellent
To compete with the best, you have to work for the best. And to work for the best, look no further than one of the fastest growing and most newsworthy firms around. Its new EC/competition department will soon even more attractive to a lawyer with 3-9 years' exp when they've seen the pay. Ref: T29765

IN-HOUSE COMPANY/COM. To £Excellent package
Prepare for take-off at this leading international company if you are a company/commercial lawyer with 5-6 years' exp who fancies a rocket ride to the top. Your trip to the stars will take you to a package that orbits around several excellent benefits including a car. Ref: T13654

IN-HOUSE COM/BANKING To £45,000 + benefits
Take a deep breath and jump off the edge. You will soon find yourself free, falling into an in-house job that will take the rest of your breath away. A major international investment bank will ensure that a lawyer with a broad 1-4 years' experience in commercial/banking matters will land softly. Ref: T29809

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact June Masrié, Greg Abrahams or Emma Cowell (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-442 084) or 0171-266 5601 (evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Dougall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JH. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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IN-HOUSE COMPLIANCE

To £Excellent
You do not need to be able to rebuild the Great Wall of China for this job, but it helps. The Chinese walls you build need not be seen from space but do need to be seen very clearly at this major investment bank, where your role as compliance lawyer is vital. 1-2 years' exp please. Ref: T12039

JUNIOR IN-HOUSE Milton Keynes To £30,000 + benefits

No you're not dreaming, but you will be a bit busy not to pursue this one. This famous retail chain really does need a generally commercial lawyer with upto just 1 years' exp (or a legal executive with at least 3 years') to take on a very broad range of in-house legal responsibilities. Ref: T29801

PROPERTY

To £Excellent
You need a service break sometimes and the Oxford office of this well-known firm could be a great court volley of a move. The chance to do City-type work in a superbly relaxed environment should be right on your baseline if you have 4+ years' exp. Immediate partnership to the right player. Ref: T29953

INSURANCE LITIGATORS

To £38,000
One way to insure your future is to join the Lloyd's office of this top City firm. It will guarantee you experience in one of the largest Lloyd's practices, protect you from low salaries and unappealing work and ensure you have a smooth ride to partnership. Your only downpayment is 2-3 years' exp. Ref: T22557

CORPORATE TAX

To £35,000
Do you feel used by your future? Do you think you should reclaim control of your life by moving on and up? If so, this top West End firm can offer a wonderful rebate in the shape of the senior assistant role in the corporate tax department. All you need is 4-6 years' exp and ideally some property tax experience. Ref: T19683

NON-CONTENTIOUS IT

To £35,000
And this young non-contentious IT lawyer with 1-2 years' exp is on the ball, goes round one career obstacle and another. She shoots at the top City IT specialists and scores! It was a wonderful move by the young lawyer, and one that we shall all be talking about for years. Ref: T10835

SHIPPING

To £Excellent
A life on the choppy career waves is not as good as it could be for you, a committed shipping lawyer with 3-6 years' exp. Instead you could soon be aboard the good ship 'Partnership' by steering a straight course through untroubled waters to this major rich firm. Ref: T29924

A fast-moving business, a rapidly developing industry.

This is an exciting time to join us. Our success in the fast-moving gas supply market is largely due to our innovative, solution-driven approach. These qualities are particularly apparent in our legal team which provides a range of professional legal services throughout the business. Here you will find a commitment to delivering business solutions through teamwork and a clear focus on business goals.

The following roles involve working with external and internal customers alike while providing commercially aware, expert legal advice.

Commercial Solicitor
£29,000 to £31,000

You will take on a diversity of gas-related commercial work spanning all areas of the business, involving contract drafting, negotiating and providing expert legal advice. With at least two years' post-qualification experience, ideally gained in the City, you should be solution-driven and able to produce work of the highest quality under pressure. This will particularly suit an ambitious legal professional who will thrive in a demanding, dynamic business environment.

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to £25,000

This role would suit a qualified lawyer/legal executive ideally with some regulatory experience. It involves specialising in the regulatory, statutory and transportation arrangements for Eastern Natural Gas' on-shore gas businesses in the UK. Whilst largely advisory in nature, this regulatory position will also involve extensive liaison with gas transportation authorities.

Generous benefits packages are available for both roles including car, pension and corporate gym membership.

If you would thrive in a new market that is evolving fast, send your CV with a covering letter to Janet Hall, Human Resources, Eastern Natural Gas Ltd, 249 Carterhatch Lane, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4BW. Please state clearly in your application which position you are applying for. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 28 October 1996.

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We are a three partner specialist commercial litigation firm at Heathrow Airport operating principally in the maritime, banking and offshore sectors. The firm is designed and equipped to meet the needs of the modern internationally oriented client. We concentrate on our core strengths, through a specialist approach to our work, training and education, to ensure that our clients receive a focused service. Being small, we have the flexibility to

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We seek a shipping litigation lawyer with the drive and ability to contribute to the development of CDG. In keeping with our commitment on quality, we offer a highly competitive salary and, for the right candidate, early partnership prospects.

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Raymond Kidwell QC

has completed his term as Head of Chambers. He continues in practice. He has been succeeded by

Graeme Hamilton QC

Chambers are further pleased to announce that John Stevenson (formerly of 22 Old Buildings) has joined Chambers with effect from 1st October 1996 and that James Maxwell-Scott is now a tenant following the successful completion of his Pupillage.

The members of Chambers are:

Graeme Hamilton QC
Sir Michael Ogden QC
Raymond Kidwell QC
Patrick Bennett QC
John Archer QC
John Crowley QC
Michael Harvey QC
Christopher Purchas QC
Nigel Wilkinson QC
Anthony Edwards-Stuart QC
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Chambers Administrator: Boutia Moshiri

PROGRAMME LAWYER

LIVE TV is Britain's brightest cable TV channel. Our Programme Lawyer is moving to terrestrial TV and this gives an excellent opportunity to join us. You will advise senior executives and producers on all aspects of programme content and advertising/sponsorship arrangements. Your wide remit will include: advising on libel, contempt of court and copyright issues, and matters relating to compliance with ITC codes, liaison with external bodies and litigation management.

You will have 2-4 years PQE including significant emphasis in media which may have gained either in private practice or industry.

Our small in-house team operates in a challenging and hectic environment. If you have resilience, a robust sense of humour and a flexible approach we would like to hear from you.

We offer a competitive salary and an excellent benefits package.

Please send your CV, including salary details, to Graham Frankel, Personnel Manager (ref TVL), Mirror Group plc, One Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5AP.

L!VETV

David Powell fears for British athletics as rugby offers a wealth of opportunity

Runners take flight in pursuit of security

Seven months ago, Jason John was Great Britain's most successful sprinter at the European indoor athletics championships in Stockholm. Now, at 24, a younger than Linford Christie was when he made his breakthrough — John has retired from athletics. Professional rugby union has opened its door and John has dashed through.

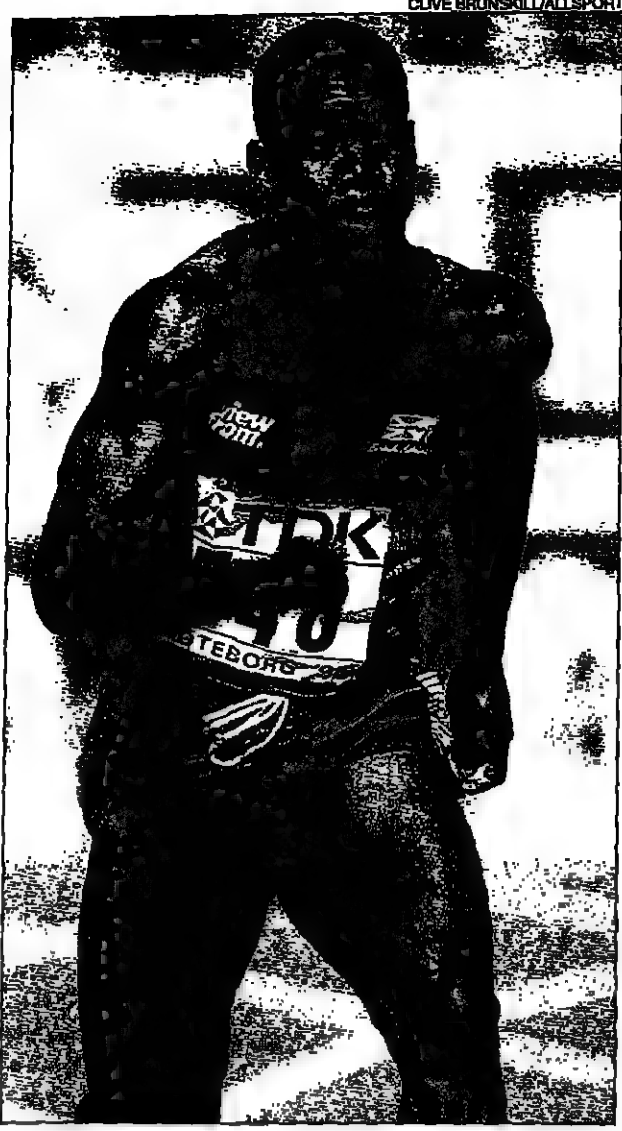
"It boils down to greater security," John, the 60 metres silver medal-winner in Stockholm, said. He is playing on the wing for Moseley in the Courage Clubs Championship second division; and John and Nigel Walker, the Olympic hurdler who became a Wales international, are by no means the only accomplished sprinters now playing rugby union.

Elliot Bunney, a former European junior 100 metres champion, is a regular for Heriot's in the Telfords Premiership first division. Paul Sampson's call into the senior England squad aged 18 last January made headlines, but he was level-headed enough to keep rugby as an option rather than a commitment.

Six months later, Sampson won the English schools 100 metres title. The next Christie, or the next Underwood? He has to choose and Underwood is apparently winning. Sampson has signed for Wasps and his father, though he would like him to become an athlete, recognises that rugby may be the safer bet for a professional sportsman.

Lower down, Derek Redmond, a former 400 metres British record-holder, has scored seven tries in seven matches this season for Stow-on-the-Wold, emphasising the demand that exists in the game for men with pace. Redmond, despite ten Achilles tendon operations and having not raced since the 1992 Olympic Games, is looking towards a higher level. "I do not need to be as quick as I was on the track to be one of the quicker players," he said.

While Bunney enjoys his income from rugby, money was not his motivation. However, Martin Watkins, who coaches a group of Britain's young athletes, acknowledges that the professionalisation of rugby union has sharpened it as a rival to athletics and John admits that it encouraged him to switch sports.



John runs for Great Britain at the world athletics championships last year and chases a loose ball for Moseley in the rugby union match against Richmond on Saturday



"I can make a living playing for Moseley," John said. "I get paid a retainer, match fees and win fees, and I have got a club car and full medical expenses. In rugby, because you are guaranteed a wage, you do not have to worry about where your money is coming from."

"I know people in track who have mortgages but do not know where their next cheque is coming from to pay that mortgage. I believe more athletes will go to rugby, and not just sprinters."

Watkins cites Ian McLaughlin, an English schools hammer medal-winner, as a case in point. McLaughlin, 19, is playing rugby for the Harlequins second XV, competing as an athlete only sporadically.

Richard Simmons, the Brit-

ish Athletic Federation (BAF) chief sprints coach, fears for the future. "It really is a concern," he said. "In the eyes of the kids, rugby is a big draw. They think 'I can earn a lot of money and I am not going to earn anything like that as an athlete.'"

Outside the top twenty British athletes, few earn a living from the sport; probably ten times that number can do so from rugby in England. In Scotland, 100 leading players have been offered contracts by the Scottish Rugby Union, worth £20,000 to £50,000 plus bonuses.

"In Scotland, you are talking about four people, maybe five, earning a living in athletics," Bunney said. "A couple of years ago, I made some money [in athletics], but not the kind

of money you are talking about for the SRU contracts." According to Kenny Milne, the former Scotland hooker and now coach at Heriot's, Bunney is approaching that standard. "Elliot could easily come into that category and could be thinking 'I did not

kick because there are times when you have got to be able to kick, but he is in a different league for pace. Given a bit of space, it should be a try every time."

Bunney acknowledges that there is more to it than running. "It is knowing where

to run, the angles," he said. He changed sports in 1994, before rugby went professional, because he had stopped enjoying athletics and, like John, has found rugby less demanding on his time.

"In my last year, I trained as hard as I could, got injured too

often, got to the semi-finals of the Commonwealth Games, but so what?" Bunney said. "It is a lot easier to train with a team. In athletics, you have to do it yourself."

Coaches, mostly unpaid in athletics, may also be lost to rugby. Professional rugby coaches are a growing breed and clubs are beginning to recognise the potential value of a conditioning advisor. Chris Butler, who coached David Grindley to a British 400 metres record, went into rugby league with Wigan and Ade Mafe, an Olympic 200 metres finalist, on to the payroll of Chelsea FC.

John cited other reasons, as well as rugby money, for influencing his move — "Not making the Olympic team, frustration with the BAF

system". He criticises the BAF for giving him no financial support this year and offering him poor racing opportunities in Britain. In its present parlous financial state, the federation cannot compete with rugby and athletics clubs, too, are impoverished.

Although Brad McStravick, a BAF coach, is doing what he can for Sampson on the track, there have been no carrots of the kind that he is getting from Wasps. "He is in a comfortable situation," Brian Sampson, his father, said. "They finance his college fees and accommodation."

According to his mother, Christine, the teenager is leaning towards rugby "because he is getting paid for it". Increasingly, rugby's tackle threatens to flatten athletics.

Green Bay Packers continue to set the pace in the NFL Central division. Brett Favre passed for four touchdowns, including two to Antonio Freeman, and Don Beebe returned a kick-off 90 yards for a score to lead the Packers to a 37-0 rout of Chicago Bears.

Like Denver Broncos, who beat San Diego Chargers 28-17 in the AFC West division, the Packers have a 5-1 record.

RESULTS: New England 48 Baltimore 38; Green Bay 37 Chicago 0; Detroit 28 Atlanta 24; Seattle 22 Miami 15; Minnesota 14 Baltimore 12; Oakland 14 New York Jets 10; Buffalo 16 Indianapolis 13 (OT); Denver 28 San Diego 17; New Orleans 17 Jacksonville 15; San Francisco 28 St Louis 11; Houston 30 Cincinnati 27 (OT).

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Colts are finally broken by Christie

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE last remaining unbeaten record in the National Football League disappeared on Sunday night when Indianapolis Colts, for so long one of the sport's whipping boys, went down 16-13 to Buffalo Bills.

Steve Christie's 39-yard field goal, with about five minutes left in overtime, secured victory for the Bills over their AFC East division rivals. It was also Christie who had tied the game in regulation time with a 37-yard attempt.

With Indianapolis and Buffalo both having 4-1 records, the pressure is mounting on Miami Dolphins, who lost for the second match in succession without Dan Marino, their injured quarterback. John Friesz, making his first start of the season for Seattle Seahawks, threw three long touchdown passes in a 22-15 victory.

The same division also produced the highest-scoring match of the weekend as New England Patriots survived a furious fourth-quarter comeback by Baltimore Ravens to triumph 46-38. Drew Bledsoe, the Patriots quarterback, had earlier inspired his team to score on five successive possessions.

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ICE HOCKEY

Steelers defence stands firm

By NORMAN DE MESQUITA

IN THE semi-finals of the Benson and Hedges Cup, Sheffield Steelers, the holders, will play Nottingham Panthers in a repeat of the 1995 final, while Basingstoke Bison will meet Ayr Scottish Eagles. In the three quarter-final, second-leg games on Sunday, the team which had won the first legs went on to qualify, but all three were close-run affairs. The Steelers, taking a three goal lead to Newcastle, beat the Cobras 2-0, with Rob Wilson scoring in the second period and Nicky Chinn in the third, but it was the well-organised Sheffield defence that played a vital role, re-

stricting the Cobras to only 16 shots, all of which were saved by Piero Greco. The Eagles, with a two-goal lead from the first leg, went three ahead on aggregate after only nine minutes, but Manchester Storm pulled one back less than a minute later. Two second-period goals made the game safe for the Eagles.

Bracknell Bees will soon have a complex about Basingstoke Bison. Beaten 5-3 in the first leg in Basingstoke, despite leading 3-1 at one stage, they were 4-0 ahead midway through the second period of the second leg, but

Blake Knox pulled a goal back for the Bison and, by the fourth minute of the final period, they were level on the night and had restored their overall two-goal lead. Knox took his personal tally to four goals by the end of the game, which the Bison won 6-5 to go through 11-8 on aggregate.

In the game in Cardiff on Saturday, the Panthers wiped out their one-goal deficit from the first leg by beating beat the Devils 4-3. A ten-minute overtime period failed to produce a goal, but the Panthers won 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out — Mike Blaisdell, their player/coach, scoring the decisive goal.

FOOTBALL

Non-off 7.30 unless stated

European under-21 championship

Qualifying group two

England v Poland (at Molineux, 7.45)

Group four

Estonia v Scotland

Group eight

Ireland v Macedonia

(at Dalymount Park, 7.45)

National League

First division

Huddersfield v Birmingham (7.45)

Second division

Wrexham v Notts County

Wrexham v Shrewsbury

Scottish League Challenge Cup

Semi-final

St Johnstone v Montrose (7.45)

Spalding Cup

First round, first leg

Bath v Welling (7.45)

Dover v Rushden and Diamonds (7.45)

Hull v Altrincham (7.45)

Kettering v Slough (7.45)

Shrewsbury v Telford (7.45)

FA Cup

First round, first leg

Aston v Tottenham (7.45)

Barnet v Charlton (7.45)

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FOOTBALL

Hoddle not afraid to tackle the refereeing debate

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GLENN HODDLE, who never won a ball through force in his life, came down solidly on behalf of referees when he spoke at England's training camp yesterday of the acrimony that has grown between those who play and coach and those who arbitrate this season.

Bisham Abbey was a place of soothing calm. England's players had been wise enough to allow Hoddle, their coach, to be "a shared winner" of the squad golf tournament on Sunday, but Hoddle was emphatic when he said: "I've had a chat with one or two this past week — we need a breed of new defenders. We have to coach them into actually tackling for the ball. Tackling is an art. Bobby Moore was a great example of that. But youth coaches are now going to have to concentrate on teaching the art all over again, because I don't think referees are going to change. I think it is us who are going to have to change."

Hoddle, doing rather more than merely preparing a squad now shorn by the withdrawals of Dominik Mitten and Robbie Fowler, to 21 participants, puts principle before pragmatism.

As a creative player, sometimes hacked out of the game, he recalls that players such as

Claudio Gentile, of Italy, had the first ten minutes of a match to get away with crude destruction. "But now that the referees are clamping down, as we all saw at the 1994 World Cup, it should benefit people who want to create, and forwards who play with their back towards defenders. The Gentile situation — what happened to Maradona — should be a thing of the past. The game will benefit."

Hoddle's little homily was almost over. But he added that he had spoken specifically to two so-called hard men in his England selection, Stuart Pearce, whom Hoddle had paid the respect of talking out of intended retirement at the age of 34, was first.

"He's a bonus on the pitch and off it," said Hoddle, "because at this level you do need experience. Stuart can be positive in the verbal sense on the field, and in our little chat I spoke to him of needing to calm himself at certain times."

Of Ince, the ball winner and anchor in midfield, Hoddle said: "He's appreciated when to tackle, when to hold off. Once he stepped into a higher level in Italy [with Internazionale] he learnt the right time — otherwise players there would be around and away from you."

Ince received a yellow card,

for what he deems his only and "definitely not malicious" foul of the game last month in Moldova. He faces Poland on Wednesday aware that a second yellow card would rule him out of a subsequent international, and that the same situation did not prevent him becoming embroiled in a World Cup qualifying match against Poland in Katowice in 1993.

That was the "headless chickens" affair in which England lost control in a bitter match. Did Ince now realise that he was one of the headless chickens? "Who said that?" he laughed. It was rhetorical, he knew the accusation came from the then manager, Graham Taylor.

"I've learnt to walk away. I was a bit hot-headed, stupid sometimes, a bit of a lunatic," he said in a torrent of admissions. Italy, he agrees, has imposed a certain control, a daily learning process. But in the mind of Ince it is fatherhood, the responsibility towards his own son, Thomas, that has affected him more.

"People think, because you have a yellow card, you are going to play nervously in the next match. I won't be playing against Poland in that frame of mind. I do think I'm a more controlled player now, but it wouldn't be me if I wasn't looking to get the first tackle in, it's what I enjoy, it's what people want from me, and when the time comes that I can't run around at my pace, get the foot in, operate in the thick of things, I don't think I would be effective. That might come in four or five years, and I'll pack it in."

With Pearce and Ince, grateful men both for Hoddle's faith in their ability, the sterner side of England is assured, even if it promises to be tempered. Last night the England squad were shown videos of Poland's last two games. "They are a tough side to beat," Hoddle said.

"They've got good European players, coming in from different countries. They are going to be difficult to beat, and even in front of 76,000 of our supporters, we will have to show a little bit of patience to win it." Patience, and good control both of the ball and the tackles.



Ince and Alan Shearer celebrate a match-winning goal in a training game yesterday. Photograph: Shaun Botterill/Allsport

Stimac relishes chance for promotion

Richard Hobson meets the Derby County defender who is a footballing ambassador for his troubled homeland, Croatia

He is happier in a T-shirt and jogging bottoms than a suit, sports designer stubble and carries a boot bag instead of a briefcase. As ambassadors go, Igor Stimac, the new captain of Derby County, captain, is no Henry Kissinger, but when it comes to promoting his country, he can teach the shirt and tie brigade a thing or two.

A walk along the pavements leading towards the Baseball Ground on match days provides colourful evidence of the impact made by Stimac in his adopted city. Supporters are beginning to exchange traditional white shirts with the ram motif for the red and white checks of Croatia.

"When I see this, I feel very proud for my country and for the people of Derby," Stimac, 29, said. Pride is a word that crops up frequently in conversation with the defender who draws on his worldly experience to ensure that football retains its perspective.

Four years ago, when the shelling of Dubrovnik by Serbian forces had ceased but war in the Balkans still raged, Stimac decided to leave the fledgling Croatian league

and Hajduk Split, his club, for Cadiz, the Spanish club. During two unhappy seasons there, he sat at the end of a telephone as what was once Yugoslavia continued to disintegrate and his family related tales of more casualties among his friends. A number are still missing, presumed dead.

"All of the time, I was worrying," he said. "It seemed like every day something terrible happened to people I knew, while all around me I saw lies in the newspapers and on television. Serbian propaganda is very strong. That is why, now, I want the chance to show the world what Croatia is about."

There were few more poignant images during the European championship than the line of Croatia players thrusting an arm across their chest and placing a hand on their hearts as their national anthem began. Some of their individual tales were harrowing and the squad were united in grief, anger and patriotism. The war may have concluded,

but out of ceasefire sprang a new resolve and mission which did not end with a quarter-final defeat by Germany that is perhaps best remembered now for the second half sending-off of Stimac.

"Everywhere Croats play, we are among the best in our teams," he said. "You do not see any of us creating problems and that is because we are good people with spirit and culture. It is my duty to do what I can and I do it through football. At the time of the war, I wondered whether I should stay and fight. If I had not found a club abroad, I would have taken up arms. You cannot wait for the enemy to come and knock at your door, but my skill is in football and this was the best way to serve. It is always my duty to be an ambassador for Croatia."

Stimac cost Derby £1.57 million when he left Split after a successful second spell last October. He has been described often since as aloof, arrogant, confident or all three. Essentially, he is a strong character whose influence on the club is palpable. Often, he does not so much make suggestions to Jim Smith, the manager, as tell him what to do.

It was on the word of Stimac that Smith bought Aljosa Asanovic, a second Croatian, before Euro 96. The compatriots are now neighbours in Littleover, near Derby, and Stimac acts as a translator for

his friend Back home, Stimac had a reputation as something of a playboy before he married a former Miss Yugoslavia in 1990, though he admits that it did not take an awful lot to constitute being a playboy there.

Suzana has also taken to English life, and their six-year-old son is well on the way to becoming bilingual, but Stimac's thoughts still return home frequently. He would have played alongside Slaven Bilic, of West Ham United, in the World Cup qualifier in Bologna against Bosnia ("There is conflict, but only sporting," he said) today, but for suspension. He will, though, still be watching from the stand and anticipates that his country will be at their peak for the finals in France.

Away from the game, too, he knows that there is still work to be done. "A lot of our country is shattered because the Serbs fought on our soil," he said. "Many cities and villages are destroyed and there is a big refugee problem. Next year, we hope to start again with tourism because Croatia has more than 1,000 islands and a beautiful coast. Ever the salesman."



Stimac influential

Push on referee leads to four-match ban

GARY POOLE, the Birmingham City defender, has been suspended for four matches after being found guilty of pushing Richard Pounlton, the referee in charge of their Nationwide League first division match against Manchester City on September 21 (Richard Hobson writes).

Poole was also fined £1,000 and ordered to pay costs after appearing before a three-man Football Association disciplinary panel yesterday, charged with misconduct.

Poole was suspended on the referee's evidence after the incident. He was sent off after Pounlton awarded an 89th-minute penalty. He has already missed two matches, and will be available for the

fixture away to Oxford United on October 18. Frank Sinclair, the last player to be found guilty on a similar charge, received a nine-match ban.

Sieve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "The panel studied video evidence and that heavily influenced the decision." Poole refused to comment.

David Sullivan, the Birmingham joint-owner, has confirmed that he will retain his shares at the club pending the outcome of the Crown Court case against Karen Brady, the managing director, who faces charges under the Consumer Protection Act next month. Sullivan intimated on Friday that he would sell up in protest at the prosecution.

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

One of the exceptions to "second player plays low" is when a defender needs to preserve his partner's entry. This example is from the European youth championships.

Dealer South	Game all	IMPs
♠ Q76 ♥ Q10765 ♦ KJ2 ♣ K8 ♠ K983 ♥ J43 ♦ A97 ♣ Q9	N E W S ♠ 106 ♥ A62 ♦ 888 ♣ J8743	
♠ A42 ♥ K8 ♦ Q1043 ♣ A1062		

Contract: 3NT by South

Lead: Eight of spades

In the match between Norway and Finland, both South players ended up in 3NT after showing a balanced minimum opening without four hearts. The juniors are never out of game on combined 24 counts, though, when I was a boy, the accepted standard was 25. Each declarer won the spade lead with the queen, and each played a heart to the king. East playing low. Now, the declarers knocked out the ace of diamonds, and later established their ninth trick in hearts, when West had no entry to his spades. The nine tricks were two spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs.

Do you see East's error? He should go in with the ace of hearts immediately, and return a spade, allowing West to establish the suit. That way,

the declarer has only eight tricks without the diamonds; obviously, West will take the first diamond and cash his spades.

Sometimes, plays of rising in second seat are difficult. — East's possession of the nine of hearts meant that the declarer was not going to have a guess in the suit — if he had K x (x), he was always going to put up the king and, if necessary, finesse against West's jack on the way back.

The Great Northern Swiss Pairs was won at the weekend by Gill Messer and Rob Bannister, of Wiltshire. The runners-up, from Cambridge University, were Catherine Ashman and Giles Woodruff.

Robert Sheehan writes Monday to Friday in Sport and in Weekend on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

TRIGRAPH

- a. A mythical beast
- b. Three letters one sound
- c. Three-dimensional graph

TAMASHA

- a. The tree-mole
- b. Rice pudding
- c. A bean-feast

TWATTLER

- a. A chatterbox
- b. A thatcher's ladderman
- c. The tree-creep

UPPUTTER

- a. Someone who puts up
- b. The long putter
- c. A moped

Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Chess auction

On October 18, at 2pm, Christie's, of South Kensington, will be auctioning collections of chess memorabilia. One of the most interesting items is a set of ten scorebooks kept by the participants in the British Empire Club Masters tournament of London, 1927.

This was one of the most important events in the history of British chess, an international tournament of the highest rank in which grandmasters such as Nimzowitsch, Tartakower, Vidmar, Bogolyubov, Reiz and Marshall were competing. The ten scorebooks of the grandmasters' original handwritten records of their games are unique items. Those wishing to view them in advance should contact Christie's (tel: 0171-881 7611).

The nature of the chess played in the tournament was uncompromising, as can be seen from the following game between a co-winner and a two-time challenger for the world championship.

White: Savely Tartakower

Black: Efim Bogolyubov

London, 1927

Ponziani Opening

- 1. e4 e5
- 2. f3 f5
- 3. c3 N6
- 4. d4 d5
- 5. exd5 Qxd5
- 6. Be2 e4
- 7. Nf2 c3
- 8. b3 Qd2
- 9. Bf2 Qd3
- 10. Qe2 Qd4
- 11. Nc3 Qd5
- 12. Kd1 Bd7
- 13. Bc2 0-0-0
- 14. Be1 Qe7
- 15. Bg4 Qe4

Diagram of final position

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

Black to play. This position is from the game Ivkov — Garcia, Cuba, 1964. White seems to be doing very well. He has an extra passed pawn on d6 and a very active position. However, his rook on a6 is out of the game and Black now struck immediately to exploit this. How did he continue?



Breen injury may force Irish shuffle

FROM PETER BALL IN DUBLIN

IRELAND'S list of absentees from the World Cup qualifying group eight match with Macedonia here tomorrow would worry many managers. Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, however, was more concerned yesterday about the future of international football than his team's growing injury list, even though the morning's training session produced further problems, with neither Gary Breen nor Alan Moore able to train.

The loss of Breen, who has quickly established himself as one of the new breed of Ireland defenders, who are comfortable on the ball, would force McCarthy to reshuffle his side, with Keane and Houghton already missing from midfield and Quinn from the attack, the loss of Moore would lessen his

options still further. Breen has a sore shin, Moore a twisted ankle.

McCarthy, though, was heartened by the news that Andy Townsend, his captain, is fit, and he refused to worry about possible absentees. "If I lose Breen, someone else will come in and do the job," he said. "I've got a versatile squad and I'm not going to worry about things that I can't do anything about."

Given the lack of influence of managers in the councils of world football, whether McCarthy can do anything about the relative status of international and club football may be a moot point, but he and his counterparts are determined to try. Maintaining the central importance of the international game is concerning the Ireland manager.

He is not alone. Arrigo Sacchi, Aimé Jacquet, Glenn Hoddle and Bobby Gould, his opposite numbers in Italy,

France, England and Wales, respectively, expressed similar concerns at the recent Uefa international managers' meeting in Copenhagen. "The fear is that importance is going away from international football because of the Champions League," McCarthy said. "Now they are talking about a super league, but it would be bad for the game if international football is diminished. Playing for your country should be more important than anything else. Playing in the quarter-finals of the World Cup was the pinnacle of my career."

"I can understand that top club managers are reluctant to release players, even more so now because they cost millions of pounds and then, at the end of the contract, there's no transfer fee. If I were a league manager, I wouldn't be too happy about it either, but I still wouldn't stand in a player's way."

Brazilians seeking safe havens

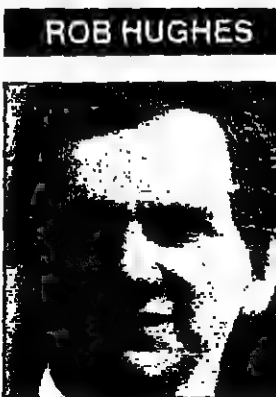
ROB HUGHES

The world of creative football is turned upside down when one can say, with conviction, that it is better to be born McManaman of Merseyside than Savio of Rio de Janeiro. Better to be English than Brazilian? Pull the other one.

Yet it is true. Steve McManaman and Savio are players of the same generation, separated by an ocean and by a footballing ideology; but, without a doubt, the English ball-player is today a more protected species than the one bred in the land of joga bonito — beautiful play.

Both as slight as sparrows and as quick as light, they are inviting targets to the thugs who would stop a superior player. Both have been raised to follow their instincts, to run at defenders with the ball, but, alarmingly, while in England there is such a hue and cry about the proliferation of red and yellow cards for tackles from behind, in Brazil, Savio has been savaged so often, without reprisal, that he must be close to submission.

A couple of weeks ago, before Flamengo, his club, played Corinthians, Savio, at 22, two years McManaman's junior, was given a chilling piece of advice. Mario Zagalo, the national coach, warned him: "Young man, take care.



Overseas View

Cut down on the dribbling, or else they will cut you down at the shins."

Savio ignored the warning at his peril. He was hacked down by a two-footed kick from Alexandre Lopes. The coach via a mobile phone to give instructions during a game. "I told him I did not want this, and hung up," Carbone said. Zini then told the press that he had relieved the coach of his duties. "He didn't take seriously instructions he had been given," he said of a coach whose team had lost twice in ten matches. "He lost the game, and then went and had a beer with the coach of

much flavour to the J-League in Japan are principally Brazilian. There is even a Brazilian, Carlos Eduardo Castro de Souza, playing in the Albanian league — a clash of cultures if ever there was one.

While McManaman has come under the wing of Roy Evans, a most sensible coach who has some kind of job security, Savio tries to build a career amid insanity. In the Brazilian league, which has been in operation for three months, 11 of the 24 teams have sacked their managers. They call this "the dance of the coaches", and one club, Guarani, last week made the headlines for having dismissed its second manager of the campaign, and its ninth since the year began.

Just why Carbone was fired is reported with cynicism, amusement, machismo. Beto Zini, the Guarani president, apparently tried to call his coach via a mobile phone to give instructions during a game. "I told him I did not want this, and hung up," Carbone said. Zini then told the press that he had relieved the coach of his duties. "He didn't take seriously instructions he had been given," he said of a coach whose team had lost twice in ten matches. "He lost the game, and then went and had a beer with the coach of

the opposition. I couldn't allow him to behave in that way."

With such presidents in the boardrooms, can anyone wonder that coaches, aware that their tenure will be fly-by-night, organise destruction rather than creation?

"The violence in Brazilian football today is a disgrace," Gerson, one of the delightfully creative performers of Brazil's 1970 World Cup side, said. "The referees here overlook everything and the disciplinary tribunals overlook everything, too."

In the Brazilian league on Sunday, Vasco da Gama beat Flamengo 4-1. Flamengo's scorer was Bebeto, from the penalty spot. Vasco da Gama had Edmundo, a man three times as potent. Formerly known as "the animal", a player whose nonsensical antics had once caused a riot between these clubs, Edmundo says that he is reformed. His hat-trick on Sunday might alert European clubs — maybe even a certain club on Merseyside — to the fact that he would rather like a change of scenery, to the protected environment of Europe.

What, though, keeps covered players in Rio? Last June, there was an enterprising attempt to bring Brazilian beach football to Southport. It rained.

England rule out finale to Australia autumn tour

Greg Thomas, the ARU spokesman, said: "The ARU is very disappointed by the outcome. We tried every avenue we could and we are still baffled by the attitude of the domestic unions, but it would have been a retrograde step for us to turn down Wales released for the game outside leagues one and two."

BARBARANS (v Newport, 10pm): C Connors (Wales), J. Williams (Wales), R. Waters (England), T. Whittard (Richmond), M. Hutton (Richmond), N. Jenkins (Pontypridd and Wales), R. Moon (Llanelli and Wales), R. Hastings (Pontypridd), G. Jones (Pontypridd), P. Probyn (Bristol and England), P. Walton (Newcastle and Scotland), J. Cooper (Llanelli and England), J. Jones (Llanelli), D. Biles (Cwmrhyll), J. Mitchell (Sale).

BARBARIANS (v Newport tonight): C Cormack (Pontypool); D Tussell (Bristol), F Waters (Bristol), T Whitford (Richmond), M Huston (Richmond); N Jenkins (Pontypool and Wales), R Moon (Llanelli and Wales); R Hardwick (Coventry), N McCarthy (Berth), J Probyn (Bedford and England), P Weston (Newcastle and Scotland), V Cooper (Llanelli), D Gnewcock (Coventry), D Eves (Coventry), J Mitchell (Sale).

Leicester	4	3	1	338	390	6
Leopards	5	3	2	464	448	8
Manchester	6	3	3	459	472	8
Thames Valley	8	3	5	752	782	6

Ward's efforts add to victory burst

They won the first of 12 regional finals of the Challenge to be held throughout the country in the next four weeks by four points from Clerical Medical Investment Group, with Morley Group third, a

SLALEY HA

"We came here to enjoy the day," Ward, a four-handicapper, said. "I told them not to take any silly chances, just get the ball in the fairway, and then maybe go for a score."

The tactic worked beautifully. Ward was the solid under-

LEADERS

The seven there was the highest tally of the round, while the worst came immediately after their mid-round break. Three drives of the four were topped at the 10th. Inevitably, the solitary decent

They recovered quickly, scoring six points on both the 11th and the 12th. They had strayed slightly off track, but had rapidly rediscovered their way. They were not to go wrong again.

85: Armstrong, Watson & Co. Inc.: Central Medical Investment Group, Inc.; Morley Group Ltd.; The Coopers and Lybrand; Lincoln National; TD McDougall; Scotch Style Ltd.; Windows '77; Conquest Rugby Union Ltd.; The 78 and 79; Dunder & Co.; The 79; Derry Landscapes and Garden Design; Hammonds Suddards; Ties Summer

& Partners: Forbo CP Ltd.; TDS Yorkshire Ltd.; Nuclear Electric Ltd.; Döbereiner-Hornum; TDS Mees-Petersen NV; Wills Corroon North Ltd.; Northern Electric; R. Eagle Ltd.; Tony Morrison Engineers Ltd.; The 78 and 79; The 79; The 79; Management Bureau Ltd.; Sijpdon Building Society; Northgate Motor Holdings.

scoring six points on both the 11th and the 12th. They had strayed slightly off track, but had rapidly rediscovered their way. They were not to go wrong again.

[illegible]

Team: Dutch, Penn. Women: J. Bird
(Bridget Doherty) 5:39.04

COMBINED: PENNARD HORSERACE
RACE 7 (miled/1000 ascent, including
first Irish championship race): Marc, 1.
McNelly (Newcastle) 1:03.56. 2. B.
McNelly (Newcastle) 1:03.56. 3. N. Carty
(North Down) 1:03.56. Final positions: 1.
McNelly, 2. Carty, 3. Carty, 4. McNelly,
5. McNelly, 6. Carty, 7. McNelly, 8. McNelly,
(North Down) 1:03.56. 1:41.46, 2. S.
Carnon (Derry) 1:52.25

BASKETBALL

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Thames Valley 112
Dorset 90, Wokingham 80 Manchester 79:
Cherley 99 Newcastle 85

Leading positions

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sheffield	5	1	5	141	434	10
London	5	1	4	142	405	8
Cheshire	5	1	4	148	451	8
London Towers	5	1	4	148	451	8
Orkney (Bathurst)	5	1	4	148	451	8
Sheffield	5	1	4	148	451	8
Birmingham	5	1	4	148	451	8
Dorset	5	1	4	148	451	8

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EQUESTRIANISM

HEMBLEY: Horse of the Year Show
 Olympic, indoor-out: 1, Celtic Horse (P)
 2, Celtic 2, Rip (D) Midwestern, SA, regus
 3, Western (K Short) and Grand Prix (D
 Charles) Golden Saddle and check 1st
 Bowler Queen (J Fisher) (Rt. 26, 73; 3;
 2, Uptown (D Watson) 0, 50, 67, 3; Cal
 1st (K Engstrom, Gen. R. 29)

FOOTBALL

Sunday's latest results
 WORLD LEAGUE: Strömberg 2 Mer-

FRANCE CUP: Cortical zone: Semi-
 finals: Group one: 1mcdad and Panaga 1
 2: Group one 1 Group two, Tabano 1 El
 Salvador 1

BRITAIN LEAGUE: Fluminate 2
 2: Brazil Mineiro 2; Portuguese 1 Juvenile
 2: 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th

[illegible]

MOTORCYCLES

[illegible]

Argentina ban
Equestrianism: The Argentine showjumping team, who finished seventeenth in 19 in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES

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WORLD CUP Preliminary tournament Pool A: Canada 1 Egypt 0; Wales 2 Kazakhstan 0. Pool B: Ireland 5 Poland 2; United States 5 Bangladesh 4.

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL) Florida 5 New York 1; Rangers 2 Calgary 3 Buffalo 0
AHL Vancouver 6 Chicago 4 St. Louis 1; San Jose 7 Los Angeles 0

ICE HOCKEY

NEWMARKET: Browning Cup (professional singles) awarded to Seattle's M. Goughin by M. Eade 3-0, 5-1 & 5-0 Final Round by Goughin 4-0, 4-0, 5-0

REAL TENNIS

BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE

LATEST POSITIONS

- First leg**
- Southampton to Rio de Janeiro 5,000 miles**
- 14. Time & Tide**
- 9. Courtside Int'l**
- 11. Global Teamwork**
- Save the Children**
- Group 4**
- Torishio White Warrior**
- 13. Pause to Remember**
- 12. Health Insured II**
- 7. Ocean Rover**
- 5. Motorola**
- Cowary Islands**
- 14B. SCORPION**
- 14C. Concord**
- 16W. Nuclear Electric**
- Commercial Union**

Position set at 13.00GMT yesterday

6-4; D Vera (Fr) to T Sprink 2-6, 7-8, 6-3, C Beecher to M Wyeth 8-2, 6-3.

VIENNA: Men's tournament: First round: J Slomink (Hol) to M Hipfel (Austria) 6-3, 6-0; J Stollenberg (Aus) to M Philippoussis (Gr) 6-3, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

PEKING: Men's tournament: First round: O Operador (Ucu) vs P Reiter (Aus) 7-5, 7-5; G Kuerten (Br) vs P Fredericksen (Swe) 5-7 7-6, 6-4; S Schalken (Hol) vs J Ja Pragas (Gra) 6-2, 7-6

SURABAYA, Indonesia: Women's tournament: First round: H Hraja Lajpary (Ind) vs A Patel (Ind) 6-2, 6-4; A Gera (Ind) vs P Gopcon (Ind) 7-6, 6-2; S Patilwadi (Ind) vs A Doshi (Ind) 6-2, 6-2; Y Yoshida (Jap) vs A Shioda (Jap) 7-5, 6-4; S Tetsud (Ind) vs T Kozan (Slovakia) 6-0 6-1; L Rishorse (Cay) vs M Jower (Cuba) 6-3, 6-1; T Tanagumong (Tha) vs S Kiosael (Ger) 6-2, 6-2; A Sarra-Zanetti (It) vs R-A Guse (Aus) 6-1, 6-3

FILDERSTADT: Women's tournament: First round: M Hinga (Slovak) vs N Somerseth Lignard (6-2, 6-3; B Bremer (Ger) vs L Ukhovskaya (Russ) 6-2, 6-4; B Schultze (Netherl) vs I. Raymond (US) 7-6 6-3.

unacceptable obstacles, including one fence which had a wooden lathe containing nails fixed to the top pole.

Clarke's treble

Hockey: Daniel Clarke, the Lisnagavry striker, scored three times as Ireland beat Poland 5-2 in the men's world cup preliminary tournament in Cagliari, Sardinia, yesterday. The victory ensures Ireland's place in the next qualifying phase.

FINAL SCORE.

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هكذا من الاحل

home in Scotland, led them to a terraced house and knocked on the door. A woman appeared, and recoiled when she saw the cameras. "Do you use Diaz?" asked Ozma. "Or Ome? D'you use Diaz or Ome?" When she shut the door, he doubled over laughing. What a little bit of Ozma! We missed a natural soulless there.

Fabulous goals were interspersed with Gazzia in his various moods: mainly sulky or delighted. He's a great big baby, as he is ready to admit. At home, on his own, he was sulky ("When you're on your own you think a lot"); with mates in Gateshead he snickered into a pint. And in between, he was filmed in extreme close-up (eyebrow to bottom lip) — either to radiate troublesome hair colour variations, or to indicate a colossus too big for the screen.

Matthew Bond will appear tomorrow

Lynne Truss

[illegible]

Open	Rea Hunt's Fishing Adventures	6:00pm Teenage
4:20-5:00	Bach Tuckers Men	(79934) 6:30 Real
5:00-5:30	Time Travelers (811603)	7:00 Rockin' Mo
5:30	Jurassic II (584469) 6:00 Shark	Hey Arnold (8930)
6:00	Rea Hunt's Fishing Adventures	8:00 Degrassi (111)
6:30	Time Travelers (811603)	Monsters (13416)
7:00	Crocado Hunters	Sandberg (1346)
7:30	Mysterious World	10:00 Bonanza
7:55-8:45	Rea Hunt's Fishing Adventures	10:30 Law and
8:00	Time Travelers (811603)	Men (823944)
8:30	Shark Week (208631) 9:00	(895259) 10:45
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9:30	Shark Week (208631) 10:00	(12205) 1:00 Real
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6.30
7.00pm James Cotton (1950/694) 8.00 Ana
(7893300) 8.30 La Sylphide (2445392) 9.30
Mambo 4 (5665383) 12.00-1.00am BB King

BBC WORLD

News on the hour
8.15am Sam Parson (5119955) 9.30 Pat Man
n. France (4394247) 10.30 Transworld
World (9693343) 1.15pm The Money
Programme (3682494) 2.15 Business
(87341427) 3.30 The Travel Show
(6330885) 4.15 Panarama (7747171) 5.30
Film 32 (6301456) 6.00 Panarama
(4573088) 9.30 *Play's* American Pie
(4375779) 12.10am Newsnight

12:00 **It Could Happen to You** (1994)
 12:00 **200pm Grizzly Mountain** (1994)
 4:00 **Poohabortion: The Legend** (1989)
 5:00 **6:00 Weekend at Bernie's II** (1993)
 6:55 **8:00 It Could Happen to You** (1994)
 10:00 **Sideways** (1994)
 11:30 **The Best Bet** (1994)
 12:55 **1:25am Mad Medicine** (1988)
 3:00 **City Cops** (1995)
 4:30-6:00 **Weekend at Bernie's II** (1993)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

9:00am **George White's 1935 Sandals** (1935)
 12:00 **3:30 Showdown on the Ark** (1934)
 4:00 **Thumelba** (1934)
 10:00 **Lillian Russell** (1940)

SPORTS

SPY Sports Center (14001) 7.30
(64446) 8.00 World of Speed and
32376) 8.30 Racing News (85756)
Sports Center (95156) 9.30
Z-Side (43175) 10.00 Vap-
76766) 10.30 Football - World
Z-Side (43175) 12.00 Aeros-
76766) 12.30pm Ringpop Boing

non Street 1.00
2.00 A Home
Chamber 1.30
Coronation 1.00
Fion Roseme
Life Guard 1.00
10.00-11.00
From 1.00

GRAND

From 6.00
includes car
1000 Stars per
From 8.00

[illegible]

Classic, same every day
every day to Wednesday,
and Sunday on satellite,
every day on cable.

Shawn's Amazing 360°
Shawn 18:00-20:00
Week 17610339 30.00

Friday The Incredible
Yellies of the Unexplored
and Allied Hitchcock
and Hitchcock Presents
Shawn's Night Gallery
Shawn 19:00-20:00
Week 17612121 30.00

UK GOLD

7.00am Lucas 17:00-19:00
Clue 17:10-19:00 4.00 Wed
3.00 Extras (75:04)

Adventures
Tuchman
Men
Rite (1803)
By 5.00 Shark
Covers World
(20863) 1 June
5.00 Shark
5.00 Inside the

5.00 Teenage
Mature Men
(79934) 6.50 Bear Mice from Me
7.00 Road's Modern Life (237)
Haymond (89315) 4.75 7.00 Jingo
5.00 Deep (11759) 4.50 Aard
Monstars (13446) 9.00 Where
Sandberg (11438) 5.00 Wander
10.00 Bananas in Pyjamas
10.10 2 and 4 Cuts (12579)
Men (83544) 10.40 What You
(20335) 9.00 Bananas in
(89524) 10.40 Bares Black (61)
Cinema (89874) 10.40
(12285) 10.40 Baba (95917) 4.50
10.00 10.75 2.00 Little Bear Skin

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7.00pm **James Cagney** (1856/94) **8.00** **Ans**
(7895330) **8.30** **The Sympathizer** (9445392) **9.30**
Warner **4** (9665330) **12.00-1.00pm** **BB King**

RBC WORLD

News on the hour
8.15pm **Panorama** (8116955) **9.30** **Fat Man**
in France (4394427) **10.30** **Tenors of**
World (99393243) **1.15pm** **The Money**
Programme (3682494) **2.15** **Business**
(8734142) **3.30** **The Travel Show**
(9349886) **4.15** **Panorama** (7774171) **5.30**
pm **36** (9234154) **6.30** **Panorama**
(4673088) **9.30** **Play's American Pie**
(4375779) **12.10pm** **Newsnight**

Country	1950	1955	1960	1965	1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010	2015	2020	2025	2030	2035	2040	2045	2050
Japan	7.0	7.5	8.0	8.5	9.0	9.5	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0
Germany	10.0	10.5	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0
France	11.0	11.5	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0
Italy	12.0	12.5	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0
Spain	13.0	13.5	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0
Sweden	14.0	14.5	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0
Belgium	15.0	15.5	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0
United Kingdom	16.0	16.5	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0
United States	17.0	17.5	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0
Canada	18.0	18.5	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0
Australia	19.0	19.5	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0
South Africa	20.0	20.5	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0
India	21.0	21.5	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0	30.5	31.0
China	22.0	22.5	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0	30.5	31.0	31.5	32.0
South Korea	23.0	23.5	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0	30.5	31.0	31.5	32.0	32.5	33.0
Indonesia	24.0	24.5	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0	30.5	31.0	31.5	32.0	32.5	33.0	33.5	34.0
Philippines	25.0	25.5	26.0	26.5	27.0	27.5	28.0	28.5	29.0	29.5	30.0	30.5	31.0	31.5	32.0						

0.00 Lillian Russell (1940) (1940)

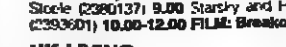
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2	50	50
3	33	67
4	25	75
5	20	80
6	17	83
7	14	86
8	12	88
9	11	89
10	10	90

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100

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FOOTBALL 44

England look to maintain self-control

SPORT

TUESDAY OCTOBER 8 1996

MOTOR RACING 46

The day Mansell's dreams were ripped to shreds



New Manchester City manager asks for patience and realism

Coppell foresees no quick fix

By DAVID MADDOCK

STEVE COPPELL stood on the Maine Road pitch, surveying the focal point of his hope and ambition. What were to be the inspirational first words from the new manager of Manchester City on the sizeable task ahead of him? "There will be no miracle from me, that's for sure," he mumbled.

Hardly inspiring stuff, but then Coppell is a realist, and he was at pains yesterday, when introduced as the apparent saviour of a club with high ambition but low on achievement, to stress the difficulties ahead.

It was, in fact, hardly necessary, the long list of the great and not-so-good who have rejected the job being a testimony to its difficulties. But Coppell, a cautious man who treats words as if they are primed and dangerous, believes that the City fans must not burden him immediately with undue expectation.

Huddle backs referees ... 44
Irish shuffle ... 44
Croatian ambassador ... 44

"It is a huge club with massive potential, and that is what sold the job to me," he said, "but there is no point in getting carried away. People have talked about my connection with Manchester United, and the rivalry there, but I'm not even thinking about that because we are just not in the same league."

City were relegated last season and are fourteenth in the Nationwide League first division, and Coppell said it would be "a very hard task" escaping. "Of course, my ambition is to get us up, and hopefully we will do it this year, but we have to be realistic. People say there is no quality in this division, but you get a war every Saturday and it is hard to play, even harder to get out of it."

Coppell, 41, the former England winger and Crystal Palace manager, who had returned to Selhurst Park as director of football, admitted that he took a "blinking" approach in accepting his new



Lee, left, the Manchester City chairman, welcomes Coppell to Maine Road yesterday. He is the club's eighth manager in the past ten years

job, trying to put from his mind the people who had turned it down, and their reasons for doing so. It did, however, worry him that so many managers had been hired and fired in recent years.

It is a position that two candidates, George Graham and Dave Bassett, officially rejected, with several others, including Howard Kendall and Howard Wilkinson, removing themselves from the

reckoning even at the "sound-ing out" stage. Coppell has become the eighth manager at Maine Road in ten years, and inherits a club burdened with a debt that is spiralling towards £30 million. He was relaxed, though, as he revealed his reasons for accepting the job. "It is not a poisoned chalice," he said. "It is a golden opportunity that I would be a fool not to have accepted. I was a little bit worried about the fact that there had been so many managers, but I am an animal who tends to roost wherever he lands."

"I had my blinkers on totally about this job. I didn't

talk to Dave Bassett, and I didn't think about anyone's motives or decisions. All I knew was that it was right for me. I was going to take it, and that was that." He does not even have, he added, a problem with interfering chairman. "I had Ron Nokes for ten years, who everyone said was a difficult chairman," he said. "We had a good relationship, and it worked at Crystal Palace, so I can't see any problems with Francis Lee. We both want the same things. If City are successful, then so am I, and Francis can relax."

Coppell would appear an odd choice for the blue team from Manchester, given his

illustrious playing career in the red shirt of United. The feeling among the supporters huddled outside Maine Road, however, was one of relief that a new manager had finally been found after 42 days of fruitless search since the departure of Alan Ball.

There was a warmth to the greeting he received, even applause as he stepped out of the car that brought him to the ground. It is said of him at Palace that he is a good manager who does not want to manage. He will be given the resources to disprove that theory — £5 million — and a contract to provide sufficient motivation by doubling his

salary of £150,000 a year if the team is promoted in his first season. Across the city at Old Trafford, Andy Cole, who suffered two broken legs in a reserve-team game on Saturday, yesterday criticised Neil Ruddock, the Liverpool defender whose tackle caused the injuries. "If challenges like this came in every game, then people are going to get seriously hurt," Cole said. "I have fractures to my left knee and right ankle. Ruddock said that he played the ball, but he was two or three yards behind me when he challenged, so how can he say that?"

Rugby league poised for world series

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IF AMBITIOUS plans discussed in England and Australia yesterday for a world club series of rugby league come to fruition, all 12 European Super League sides will play a minimum six matches, home and away, against Australasian opposition next season. The new-look season would then culminate in cross-hemisphere knockout finals between the top eight finishers.

The idea is for two breaks, of a fortnight each, in the domestic Super League calendar next summer, when 72 group games would be staged. The finals would be in October at the end of an extended regular season in either hemisphere. Under a pool system, Europe would be guaranteed four quarter-finalists, in a radical departure from a world club championship, which is restricted to the leading sides.

The 11 English teams and Paris Saint-Germain would be split into four pools of three; the 12 Australasian representatives likewise. For example, each team in European group one would travel to play the three teams in Australasia group four and vice-versa, in a series of trans-global home and away legs. At the end of the six matches, eight winners would emerge from the four pools in either hemisphere into a knock-out situation.

Details are being worked out by Super League executives in Sydney after the appeal court victory there last Friday, which lifted the ban on the Australasian Super League (ASL). The proposal was one of three discussed yesterday by Rugby League (Europe) (RLE), the new joint company of the European clubs, including a straightforward world knockout competition and a system of matches against Australasian sides counting towards Super League points at home.

Chris Caisley, the RLE chairman, said: "We've hoped to have a fixture format worked out by the middle of the week. The system of meeting Australasian sides home and away at breaks in the season is an appealing and certainly highly exciting one, not only from the point of view that all clubs will benefit from more and meaningful fixtures, but also from the commercial perspective."

More worrying is the gap

that sides will have to make up on most of their counterparts in Australia. The potential for embarrassment is clear. Paris's fragile development and confidence is unlikely to be helped by ritual slaughters by Brisbane and Canberra. Wigan, St Helens and Bradford Bulls are probably capable of keeping up with the best Antipodean company, but sides' competitiveness falls away steeply outside this trio.

What it would provide is the opportunity to try to close the gap and for European sides to learn from the best. For clubs who barely scraped by last season on 11 home matches, a guaranteed three additional games at home, and three 12,000 miles away, should drum up valuable revenue, as well as fulfilling the global vision of Super League.

In terms of cost and logistics, the proposal for the most ambitious international club competition in sporting history is rather more difficult to

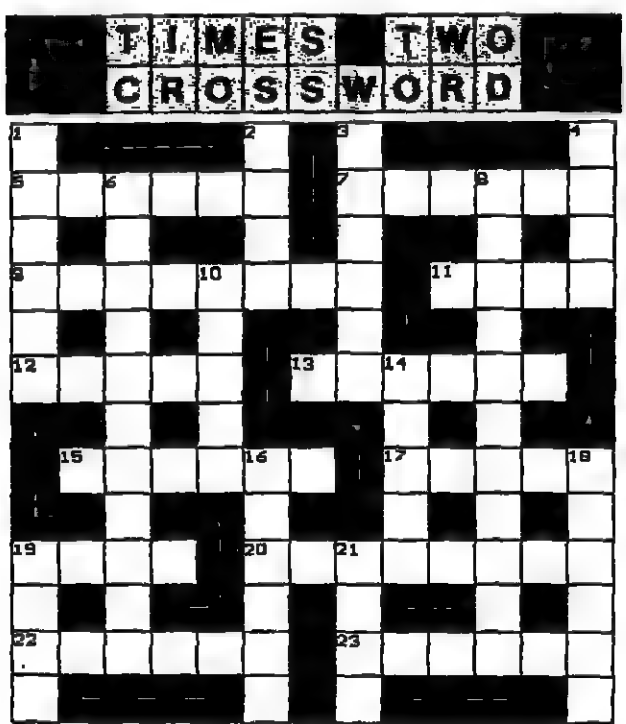
SUPER LEAGUE

EUROPEAN CLUBS: St Helens, Wigan, Bradford Bulls, Paris Saint-Germain, Leeds, London Broncos, Castleford Tigers, Oldham Bulls, Sheffield Eagles, Salford Red Devils, Wakefield Trinity, Warrington, Halifax Blue Sox.
AUSTRALASIAN CLUBS: Canberra Raiders, Brisbane Broncos, Canterbury Bulldogs, Cronulla, North Queensland Cowboys, Perth Western Reds, Auckland Warriors, Hunter Mariners, Adelaide Rams, Parramatta Panthers, plus Fiji and Papua New Guinea, if required

fulfil. It is no coincidence that airlines are to be approached about sponsorship. It is intended that sides travelling to Australia and New Zealand would play their three away legs over eight days.

Fiji and Papua New Guinea could be brought into the world series should the ASL fail to get its numbers up from ten clubs, but, as loyalties of certain Australian Rugby League clubs appear to be crumbling, that problem might also be resolved.

Jon Roper's knee ligament injury has recovered sufficiently for him to be considered for a second appearance on Great Britain's tour in their opening match in New Zealand on Thursday, Great Britain meet a Lion Red Cup team at Carlaw Park, Auckland. The only injury doubt is Anthony Sullivan, who went off at half-time in the defeat of Fiji last Saturday with a shoulder problem.



No 907

- ACROSS
5 Pass disease to (6)
7 Dolly (6)
9 Tentative, cautious (8)
11 True statement (4)
12 Discourage (5)
13 Covered way (of eg shops) (6)
15 (Eg Stanislawski's) way of proceeding (6)
17 Express gratitude (5)
19 Fobble watered down (4)
20 Place for treating in-patients (8)
22 Non-cleric, non-expert (6)
23 Unrefined (6)
- DOWN
1 Surrounded (6)
2 A distant sun (4)
3 Actor; pianist (6)
4 Worry; decorative pattern (4)
6 Three-card trick (4,3,4)
8 Top chessplayer (11)
10 "This —, this realm, this England" (Richard II) (5)
14 Dissected (3,2)
16 Available, close by (2,4)
18 Good working order (usu. out of it) (6)
19 Droop (4)
21 Draw up (into mouth) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 906
ACROSS: 1 Pisa, 3 Surplus, 5 Emperor, 9 Angel, 10 Turin, 11 Humdum, 13 Frogmarch, 17 Incubus, 19 Crave, 20 Islet, 22 Opposed, 23 Hygiene, 24 Claw.
DOWN: 1 Plenty, 2 Soporific, 3 Sir Thomas More, 4 Realm, 5 Lag, 6 Solemn, 7 Grotto, 12 Rehearsal, 14 Recipe, 15 Finish, 16 Meadow, 18 Bathe, 21 Log.

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Henman: top 30 place

Henman reaches new high

TIM HENMAN yesterday became the first British player since John Lloyd, in December 1984, to break into the top 30 in the world tennis rankings. As a result of reaching the semi-finals of the Lyon tournament last week, Henman has risen from 32 to 26 on the Association of Tennis Professionals computer.

Henman has withdrawn from the Vienna tournament this week because of blisters, but will be back on the circuit at Ostrava, in the Czech Republic, next week. Greg Rusedski, the British No 2, has also risen, from 84 to 75, after reaching the semi-finals in Singapore last week. Rusedski is competing in Peking this week.

Sam Smith has become the British No 1 for the first time after improving his world ranking from 214 to 134 in the past two weeks. Smith, who jumps above Rachel Viollot and Clare Wood, reached the semi-finals of the Limoges Challenger event two weeks ago and beat Asa Carlsson, of Sweden, in the Leipzig tournament last week.

Yorkshire to move home

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

YORKSHIRE County Cricket Club gave notice yesterday that it is to quit Headingley, 97 years after England drew with Australia in the first Test match there. The 22-acre site cost £25,000 in 1899. The overall bill for the new home, on a green-field location off the M1 near Wakefield, will be nearer £50 million by the time the county takes up residence in April 2000.

The M1 end might not carry the resonance of the Kirkstall Lane end, nor the White Rose Stadium the ring of Headingley, but 25,000 spectators will be housed in more comfort than anywhere in the country. Moreover, Yorkshire will own the place. As tenants of the Leeds Cricket, Football and Athletic Company, they have not been easy at their

increasingly time-worn ground. The change of address is not costing the club a penny. National Lottery, European grant and public and private-sector funding is expected to meet the cost of the stadium, a cricket academy and museum, five practice pitches, plus a hotel, marina, railway station and parking for 1,400 cars on the 240-acre site.

Yorkshire's membership is nowhere near as volatile nowadays. Although not consulted before the general committee's acceptance of a bid by Wakefield Council over one by the Leeds local authority, Sir Lawrence Byford, the county's president, said that 90 per cent of members would approve. Poor facilities and racist attacks on Pakistan support-

ers on the notorious Western Terrace last summer threatened Headingley's survival as a Test venue in the long term. Sir Lawrence said: "Unfortunately, Headingley has got a reputation and will suffer because of that. Compared with other Test grounds, we haven't got the facilities, whereas Wakefield will offer a ground comparable to the best in the world. We've full backing from the Test and County Cricket Board. When the pitch settles down, we'd hope for Test status."

The cricket pitch, where Botham and Willis beat Australia and Boycott posted 100 centuries, could be concreted over by a supermarket. The Sutcliffe Gates, however, will be going to Wakefield with Yorkshire.

Greenwich seeks stadium

By JOHN GOODBODY

GREENWICH is being considered as the site for the new national stadium, an 80,000-seat venue that would stage England football internationals, the FA Cup Final and important rugby league and athletics events.

The stadium, which would also be the centrepiece of any bid to stage the 2006 World Cup or the 2008 Olympic Games, would be incorporated into the Millennium exhibition, which has already been awarded to the peninsula, jutting out into the Thames from southeast London.

Talks over the rival bids of Wembley and Manchester have become stalled and sources in the National Stadium Steering Group say that the Greenwich alternative is

now being examined. A stadium in Greenwich would be a disaster for Wembley, where the contract with the Football Association expires in 2002. Without the leading matches of the national game, the famous stadium, first built for the Empire exhibition in 1923, would not be financially viable and almost certainly would have to be demolished.

Manchester has already been assured of financial assistance by the Sports Council for a smaller arena for the 2002 Commonwealth Games, even if the city is not chosen as venue for the national stadium.

Work on preparing the 80-acre site in Greenwich, which will have a tube station

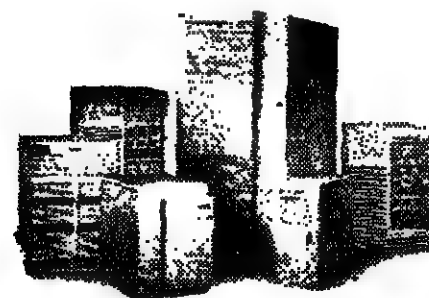
opened in 1998 as part of the Jubilee line extension, has already started. The exhibition, which will have a roof covering an area larger than Trafalgar Square, is expected to cost at least £500 million, with £200 million coming from the millennium commission.

If a stadium were built, a further £200 million would have to be found. £100 million of lottery money is earmarked for a national stadium and the remainder would come from the private sector, with possibly the FA Premier League making a contribution.

Wembley and Manchester were short-listed for the stadium last October, ahead of Sheffield, Birmingham and Bradford.

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BY HILDUR HELGA SIGURDARDOTTIR IN REYKJAVIK
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

Scientists estimate that when melted glacier water eventually bursts through, the torrents will reach a speed of between 10 and 25 yards a second. Seismologists also no-

Páll Ímsland, an Iceland University geologist, said he was still recording "pulsating tremor activity" at the site of the volcano.

The Mönch, a favourite landmark with tourists and climbers in the Bernese Oberland, will now register 4,107 metres (12,300ft) on maps, eight metres (27ft) more than it did when it was last measured seven years ago.

The flags of rivals Taiwan and communist China fly side by side after protesters landed on a disputed cluster of islands in the East China Sea in a challenge to Japan's claim to sovereignty. Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister, said that the

dispute over the islands — known as the Diaoyu in China and Tiaowan, and Senkaku in Japan — must not be allowed to get out of hand. The two separate "in-

vasions" were staged by activists from Taiwan and Hong Kong in a flotilla of small boats. Some pelted Japanese forces with eggs and tomatoes in a series of

confrontations at sea. The Hong Kong group had spent a week training for the landing to avoid the calamity that befell David Chan, a leading activist from the colony, who drowned 12 days ago when he plunged into the sea near the islands.

**FROM SAM KILEY
IN MARCH**

The press in Nairobi has been unimpressed. *Nation* said that the safari had more to do with delivering black American votes for President Clinton than anything else.



BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

Dr Doherty, 55, now works at the St Jude's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. He did his PhD research at Edinburgh University before working between 1967 and 1971 at the Moredun Research Institute in Edinburgh. Dr Zinkernagel, 52, worked with Dr Doherty in

Dr Doherty said the research also applies to Aids because the T-cells he and Dr Zinkernagel studied keep HIV, which causes Aids, in check for long periods by killing infected cells. Recent research has shown that, in the early stages of Aids infection, millions of cells every day

This year's six prizes are worth a total of \$6.72 million. But the Nobel Foundation will spend nearly as much, \$6.1 million, in actually choosing the winners. The process involves reviewing research that can be, as in this case, several decades old.

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TIM 6/10

The last President of the Soviet Union tells **Richard Beeston** Moscow cannot afford any more sick leaders

Russia's unrecognised prophet

In a country obsessed by medical bulletins and haunted by the ghostly figure of its ailing leader, nothing contrasts the state of President Yeltsin's decline quite so sharply as a meeting with his lifelong political rival, Mikhail Gorbachev.

Although the two men are both 65, today they look as though they come from different generations. Five years in power has transformed Yeltsin into a white-haired, sickly figure, who moves with difficulty and can barely manage a few hours of work from his hospital bed.

Gorbachev's hair may have grown a bit thinner and his wrinkles a little deeper, but otherwise he is unaltered. His eyes still sparkle with the enthusiasm of the man who tried to change the world. His hands are constantly in motion, either wagging a finger for emphasis or attempting to grasp some elusive point a few inches from his nose.

While Yeltsin limits himself to one or two meetings a day, Gorbachev's ante-

room is packed with politicians, journalists and diplomats, whom he squeezes into his schedule of lecture tours and speeches.

"I have never felt better," he says, reaching over to the wooden coffee table and tapping it twice. "I have only been in politics for 40 years. That's very little time. I still have a lot to do."

'I have only been in politics 40 years. I still have a lot to do'

At a politician who received only 0.5 per cent support in June's presidential elections can speak with such confidence is due entirely to his indefatigable spirit. During his campaign he was shouted down, on one occasion physically attacked by an irate Siberian, and used as whipping boy by his rivals.

But Gorbachev, the consummate politician, never gave up. By his own admission he enjoys verbal combat and is making discreet preparations for his next foray into the jungle of Russian politics.

When the subject of Yeltsin comes up, Gorbachev chooses his words carefully, but makes sure that his message is clear. He cannot afford to be seen taking advantage of his old enemy's ill health: on the other hand he wants the world to know that his warnings about Yeltsin's unstable mental character and poor physical shape are proving to be true.

That is one of the key themes in his book *Memoirs*, which is published in Britain this month, and charts the rise of a collective farmworker's son who became the Soviet Union's last leader.

While Gorbachev is not a vindictive person, Yeltsin is the exception. From the time that Yeltsin was summoned to Moscow to help to invigorate the team of reformers Gorbachev was putting together, the two men began the duel that persists to this day.

Yeltsin is described as vindictive, unpredictable and at times unstable. On one occasion, detailed in the book, Gorbachev recalls how in 1987 Yeltsin's depression led to a "simulated suicide attempt". The future Russian leader was found in a pool of blood, after he cut himself with a pair of scissors.

Now, with the two politicians locked together like rivals in a Pushkin story, where one man has power but not the health to use it and the other has lost power but none of his physical ability, Gorbachev says it is time to think of bigger issues.

"I watched first as a sick [Leonid] Brezhnev ruled, followed by a sick [Yuri] Andropov, followed by a sick [Konstantin] Chernenko. We lost at least ten valuable years because of leaders who were 25, 30 and sometimes 100 per cent out of action."

"Today the situation is even more serious because all power in Russia is concentrated in the hands of the President. Yeltsin has been ill for a long time... When I look at him now I immediately see Brezhnev and Chernenko all over again. For his own good and the good of Russia he has to step aside. The country's future cannot depend on his lengthy medical treatment. Russia cannot afford to waste any more time."

With the confused and potentially explosive political climate in Russia, Gorbachev confesses he is looking forward to his trip to America and Britain to promote his book.

A nostalgic, almost dreamy, look crosses his face as he contemplates his return to Britain, more than a decade after the visit that altered his career for ever and probably played some part in changing world history. "I can still remember that lunch at Chequers. Thatcher and I were red in the face from quarrelling," he recalls, with a chuckle. "Raisa told me afterwards that she and Denis thought we had gone mad. We were so worked up that even our heads were turned away from each other by the end."

The clash of Cold War ideologies finally gave way to a heart-to-heart talk by the fire. Margaret Thatcher



Mikhail Gorbachev on his old enemy Boris Yeltsin: "For his own good and the good of Russia he has to step aside"

discovered a man she could "do business with" and Gorbachev went on to dismantle the Soviet police state.

"I did not quite realise what an impact that trip had made until I returned home and saw the expression on Andrei Gromyko's [Soviet Foreign Minister] face. He understood that something fundamental had changed in the way East and West were moving."

When he arrives in Britain later this month, the former

Soviet leader does not plan to leave any historic milestones. What he can expect, however, is the enthusiastic reception he usually receives in the West, but which is rarely accorded him in his own country.

"A prophet is never recognised in his own country," he says with a smile. Although he is referring to Baroness Thatcher, we both know he is talking about himself.

● *Memoirs will be published by Doubleday, £25*

THE TIMES / DILLONS FORUM

Gorbachev: Why I did what I did

Your chance to question his policies

As President of the Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev set in motion some of the most far-reaching events in 20th-century history. It was his vision that led, ultimately, to the demolition of the Berlin Wall and the collapse of communism in the East.



Times readers can hear his account of these and other vital episodes in his life at a Times/Dillons forum on Tuesday, October 29. In conversation with Timothy Garton Ash, the celebrated chronicler of the end of communism in Eastern Europe, Mr Gorbachev will discuss, through an inter-

preter, his remarkable career, and answer questions from the audience.

The forum, marking publication of Mr Gorbachev's *Memoirs* (Doubleday, £25), will be held at Westminster Central Hall, London SW1, at 7.30pm.

Tickets at £10 (concessions £7.50), which include £3 off the price of Mr Gorbachev's book, are available by phoning 0171-467 1613, by faxing the coupon below to 0171-467 1690, or by sending the coupon, with your remittance, to Dillons, 82 Gower Street, London WC1E 6EQ, where tickets can also be bought.

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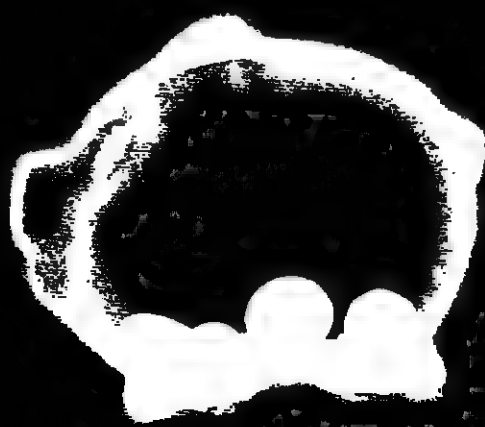
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HIDDEN EUROPE

Seats of learning

The throne in the Palace of Knossos in Crete has been described as "Europe's oldest chair". The claim is unlikely to be correct. What is certain is that high-backed chairs with arm-rests were reserved in ancient times for ceremonial purposes. They enabled rulers and high priests to assume a relaxed, dignified, and elevated position, while everyone else stood at their feet. From the royal throne, the chair as a symbol of authority has passed to the cathedra or See of bishops and to the Chairs of professors.

Furniture for everyday sitting is a relatively modern, European invention. Primitive peoples sat, squatted, or lay on the floor. Many Asian nations still prefer to do so. Ancient Greeks and Romans reclined on couches. Individual chairs were first introduced into monastic cells, perhaps to facilitate reading. They did not join the standard household inventory until the 16th century. They were not widely used in schools, offices and workplaces until the end of the 19th century.

Unfortunately, flat-bottomed chairs do not match the requirements of the human anatomy. Chairs lift the thighs at right-angles to the trunk and disrupt the equilibrium of the skeleton, putting abnormal stress on the immobilised pelvis, hip joints and lumbar regions. Chronic backache is one of the many self-inflicted scars of modern progress.

● An edited extract from *Europe: A History* by Norman Davies. OUP £25

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

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INTERFACE IT

CHANGING TIMES

Block the euro with the treaty

John Redwood calls for a diplomatic offensive to stop EMU

The Prime Minister's article in Saturday's *Times* contained a welcome new opinion. He said of our partners: "If they destabilise their economies and the single market — for example by fudging the criteria for entry — the British economy will suffer as well."

This statement, if followed through, would give Britain a chance to influence the debate. It is one I entirely agree with. So often the debate about monetary union misses the main point, or the agreement between some of the protagonists. Both sides want Britain to have influence in Europe. One side wants the Cabinet to make up its mind. The other side does not. Those of us who want a decision are accused of wanting to marginalise Britain, or undermine its influence. Yet we want a decision because it is the only way Britain can have influence.

If in a meeting there is a heated argument going on, you will not be heard if you occasionally murmur that you have not yet made up your mind. Even if the meeting is well chaired, and you are asked your view, confessing that it is too difficult for you to decide is no way to grab the agenda or settle the differences around the table. So it is not possible for Britain to have any influence on monetary union while we do not have a position.

So what could we do? There are three possible attitudes Britain could adopt now with a view to influencing the debate. The first is to say that we are against the scheme, and then bend our diplomatic and financial weight to preventing it. The second is to say that we like the idea of monetary union in principle, but this particular scheme will not work and cannot happen under a strict interpretation of the treaty. We could then table proposals that we think would work. The third is to say that the Franco-German scheme is a good one, and to help them to fudge and weave to see it through, despite the words of the treaty.

I, of course, want us to do the first, to state clearly and categorically why this scheme is bad for Britain, bad for Germany, bad for jobs, bad for democracy — and do all in our power to stop it. But I concede that we could, if we wished, influence it in the other two directions, if we made up our mind to do so. It is a myth to say that there are important negotiations going on now about the single currency which we can influence only if we do not decide whether or not to join. The main elements were hammered out years ago in the Maastricht treaty. The principles are not in question. Many other countries have made up their minds about joining. Whatever our view, we are at the table and will remain there. Our vote is needed to bring the agreed scheme into effect. Our vote is needed to embody the principles of the treaty. Our vote is needed to agree on which members qualify under the

treaty. Therein lies our power. Many say that Britain has no chance whatsoever of stopping the scheme, even if we wanted to. They are quite right that we will not stop it if we refuse to make up our mind or speak it. If, however, we were determined to stop it, things would look rather different.

We could dig in behind the words of the treaty itself. Backed by good lawyers, we could insist on the EU bringing in the euro, not the treaty. For that is what the treaty requires. We could insist — as the Bundesbank would like — on all the convergence criteria laid down in the treaty being met by any applicant. Few countries, if any, would then qualify. To modify the scheme, to dilute the requirements or to change the euro requires treaty amendment, over which we have a veto.

On many European issues, such as the British rebate or the ban on beef, Britain is isolated. We need not be isolated on this issue. We should woo the Portuguese, Greeks, Spaniards and Italians, who are likely to be excluded because they are miles short of the requirements. We should befriend the Danes, whose people are against monetary union, and the Swedes, who are becoming very sceptical about it. We should remind the Irish that life could be difficult for them in a European currency if we are outside.

We can win over many in the Bundesbank and the opposition parties in Germany, where most people want to keep the mark. We can speak for millions in France who want the Government to change economic policy to create jobs. Above all, we should be positive. We should hold out a vision of a Europe of more jobs and prosperity, based on more flexible exchange rates.

Our best bet to stop the scheme is to stick to the treaty and to dig in on matters requiring unanimity. Our fallback is to collect friends for the qualified majority votes, where just four countries can block monetary union. The odds are better than in many European negotiations. Our third opportunity comes from rallying the electorates of the continent against it by showing them that there is an alternative. They might then persuade their governments to change course, or might change their governments.

The Foreign Office should be told after the next Cabinet meeting what our position is. I trust it will be to monetary union. Rallying others to the cause is a task worthy of our fine Diplomatic Service and of our country. We would stand for something noble. We would be the voice of the millions in Europe who recognise that their countries still have something to offer the world, and for all those who are not ready to transfer their allegiance to a new country called Europe. For all those young people who already cannot get jobs, thanks to monetary union, we would be the beacon of hope.



The voice of the victim

How do we ensure that the grief of the bereaved is not exploited?

Children's deaths cry out to heaven for vengeance. Or at least for some cathartic recognition that they made a difference, that this life was not wasted and this death not in vain. By a child's grave a longing arises to do something: found a medical charity, launch a safety campaign, reform the law, pay your debts to the dead by protecting the living.

Those bereaved by such tragedies find that they have, for a while at least, a peculiar power. To the rest of us they are figures of awe, touched by the terrible magic of death. If they are friends we can embrace them; but if we only know them through the media lens we are uncomfortably helpless. We can pray for them; failing that, we can only gawp, uneasily aware that some of our fascination has dark roots in prurience and a hateful need to distance ourselves from the victims by secretly disparaging them: "Chaotic looking pair... my child would never have been out alone... well, she smokes like a chimney."

Adrift amid these feelings, we are relieved if the mourner makes us feel better by asking for help. We greet with enthusiasm any sign that they are going to campaign, raise funds, or publish a book. Here is something to exorcise the sense of taboo. And besides, grief is owed a platform. When Ann Pearson, organiser of the Dunblane Snowdrop campaign against handguns, spoke to the Labour conference you could have heard a pin drop. Dunblane is so recent and so uniquely terrible that I do not think Labour can be blamed for offering her a hearing; for Tories to huff about exploitation is irrelevant. You do not exploit somebody who comes so determinedly. We know that Snowdrop wanted to go to Bournemouth too; the parties should have conferred or better, offered a jointly backed public debate after Lord Cullen's report.

(Incidentally, for what it is worth: I wrote in May that gun sports need not be suppressed but could be more tightly regulated, given co-operation from the "sensible" gun lobby. Since then John Crozier, who lost his daughter, has been personally reviled in a gun magazine; my own moderate article brought exactly one thoughtful letter from a gun-clubber and several dozen arrogant, blustering, intransigent, patronising ones. So I have changed my mind. Ban them all.)

Another campaign born of bereavement features Chris Hook, whose daughter Sophie, at seven, was dragged from a garden, raped and murdered by a known sex offender. Mr Hook was sent to Seattle by the BBC's *Heart of the Matter* to see the Washington State "community notification" scheme, under which people are told when previous sex offenders move to live near them. He says he inwardly screamed: if it had operated here, he thinks, Sophie would not have been out, and Howard Hughes would not have killed her. Mr Hook wants castration for sex offenders for a first offence, execution for a second.

It is not easy to argue with a man in such grief. A debate, however, was set up in the programme. Joan Bakewell gallantly tried to get reasonable discourse going between Mr Hook, Michele Elliott of Kidscape, a Liberty spokesman, a bishop, David Mellor, MP, and Ray Wye, who has treated sex offenders for years and knows the territory exceptionally well. She failed. Only heat was generated, no light; every argument provoked overreaction. Chris Hook was quiet, but his presence prevented progress. Any caution, any appeal to practicality or for a more comprehensive approach, could only sound like an appalling insult to the dead and to the grieving. The whole thing felt wrong, undignified, unhelpful.

This is not to say that the voice of the victim should not be heard, loudly and emphatically; but it works better when an existing group, with a well-tested set of proposals, enlists a victim to endorse them. The injured person then stays enclosed in an inviolable bubble of respect, safe from insult, from backlash, from all the risks you take when you start an argument. They may not need protection for ever, but it seems to me that we are too ready to encourage people in raw grief to give up their inviolability and enter the bruising domain of argument.

There have been countless other

examples of campaigns by newly bereaved individuals. The personal cost to them is often high. The widow of Gordon Wilson, the father of Marie, who died in the Enniskillen bombing, says unequivocally that his work for the Northern Ireland peace process caused his early death. "It was as if he thought it best to burn out," said Joan Wilson. Early on, after bravely talking with the IRA, Mr Wilson returned visibly distressed by his reception, the coldness of which added insult to his great injury. Colin Parry, the father of 12-year-old Tim, who was killed in Warrington, has trodden a similar path. What the recent setbacks in the peace process must have cost him, personally and emotionally, no outsider can guess.

There are countless others: from Anne Diamond's media-wise campaign over cot death to countless amateurish medical charities founded by grieving parents. Many, alas, soon collapse. Dr Rob Buckman, the cancer specialist, once told me that he spent a lot of effort persuading relatives to go away for a year or two, mourn properly, and then come back if they still want to start a fund.

One remarkable campaign founded out of personal tragedy is the Suzi Lamplugh Trust, named for the abducted young estate agent by her mother, Diana. I was at the birth of this, ten years ago this month. I had written about the case and its coverage, and Mrs Lamplugh rang me — four months after Suzi's disappearance — to ask whether I would chair a seminar with a view to founding the Trust. I did it with deep misgivings on her behalf, and only out of a sense of debt. But Mrs Lamplugh was not emotionally out of control, and that meeting — which included psychologists and police and young women in trades from nursing to surveying — addressed for the first time in a modern, feminist world the irreducible fact of women's continuing vulnerability. The Trust

Libby Purves

is to present an argument even when you are thinking straight; how dangerous to enter the public domain in an age when tabloid journalism feeds on a cycle of adulation and backlash, and when opponents are ruthless. We should point out that identifying a cause with one tragedy may mean that the cause fades as memory does; that victim-blaming is only a breath away from sympathy compassion. Remember too what the disabled know: that it is an imprisoning, not a liberating, thing to have your whole identity bound up with one affliction.

So, never forget Dunblane, or Sophie Hook, never stop working to protect other children. But it should be possible for society to improve itself without leeching off the grief of individuals; and for individuals to be supported in their sorrow without needing to turn into politicians. At least, not before the tears are dry.

Tunnel will take its toll

Anatole Kaletsky
defies the City
on Eurotunnel

First let me declare an interest. I am a modest shareholder in Eurotunnel. I made this investment back in 1987 on behalf of my newborn daughter, who will thereby enjoy the right to travel free to France until long after I am dead — or, at least, until I have celebrated my 102nd birthday. And I believe that London and Paris are the two greatest cities in the world, and I enjoy nothing more than to travel frequently and easily between them. For both of these reasons, I have a certain personal stake in the financial rescue announced yesterday for Eurotunnel.

Despite this financial and emotional involvement, I sincerely hope that the company's shares will collapse this morning when they start trading on the London Stock Exchange. This is because I intend to buy more shares as the bearish banks and City institutions dump them — and I want to pick up these shares at the lowest possible price. For as an economist, I am convinced that Eurotunnel shares will be one of the great investments of the next decade. A *Financial Times* editorial last week which asserted that on strictly economic grounds the tunnel should never have been built at all makes me even more certain that I am right and the City is wrong.

The City's conventional view is that the tunnel cost £11 billion to dig, but is now worth only £5 billion on the basis of its future revenues. This means that the tunnel construction, while hailed as an engineering marvel, was a value-destroying exercise in economic vandalism. It was like a gargantuan Soviet *zelm*, or an African highway to nowhere — its construction actually reduced the sum total of economic resources available to satisfy genuine human wants.

The reality, however, is exactly the opposite. The tunnel was doomed mainly by financial incompetence — above all the City's idea of financing such a risky project with £5 billion of debt (which has since grown to £9 billion), supported by just £1 billion in shareholders' funds. But Eurotunnel's financial structure has absolutely no bearing on the project's true economic value. And in strict economic terms, the tunnel is certain to be judged a success.

The reason should be obvious to anyone who has travelled frequently to Paris in the past two years. Just as jet aircraft put the transatlantic ocean liners out of business, the tunnel has made cross-Channel ferries technologically obsolete on the short journey across the Straits of Dover. Five years from now, the cross-Channel ferries, which now limit Eurotunnel's market share and pricing power, will be gone. A few may still plod the straits, but only for nostalgic reasons. Travelling to Calais by sea will be as quaint as taking a steamboat down the Mississippi or a horse-drawn carriage round New York's Central Park.

In saying this, I am fully aware of the stunning incompetence displayed by the managements of Le Shuttle and Eurostar — the technical breakdowns, the unanswered telephones, the chaotic ticket queues at Waterloo, the pointless reservation requirements and absurdly long check-in times for Eurostar, and the absence of even a coffee machine or a children's video to help to while away the 35 minutes on Le Shuttle.

But these teething problems have no more bearing on the tunnel's long-term prospects than does its financial structure. The present management's commercial incompetence has merely delayed the ferries' inevitable extinction by a year or two.

Once the ferries go out of business — as they certainly will by June 1999, when they will lose the concessions on duty-free sales which now provide their only commercial *raison d'être* — Eurotunnel will command a monopoly over the road link between the two biggest cities in the biggest trading region in the world. The right to run an unregulated toll-booth on the world's most important transport bottleneck will give Eurotunnel a licence to print money — backed up by a guarantee from the French and British Governments that nothing will be done to limit its pricing power.

The Eurostar rail service will not have quite the same command of its market, since airlines will still provide competition. But once the train service is functioning properly — which, so far, it definitely is not — taking a plane from London to Paris will become as unusual as flying from London to Birmingham.

In the long run, the only real constraint on Eurotunnel's ability to generate cash for its shareholders will be the tunnel's physical capacity to carry more shuttles and trains. At that point the company will be able to play its ace in the hole. The small print in its licensing agreement gives Eurotunnel an exclusive right to build and operate a second fixed link across the Channel when the present tunnel runs out of capacity. As the time approaches for that second tunnel to be built, the City may finally recognise the real threat to Eurotunnel's long-term future: it will be making so much money that the Governments may tear up their agreements and take away its monopoly power.

Commanded

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S rift with his private secretary, Commander Richard Aylard, was followed by an announcement from Buckingham Palace saying that Aylard would remain employed in the household until February. He is unlikely to last out the month, however, and some are saying that he will be gone by the end of the week.

Palace employees are shocked by the way Aylard has been treated. He has been extraordinarily devoted to the Prince, they say, and what is his reward? Under such circumstances, he is unlikely to remain in the Palace for more than a few days.

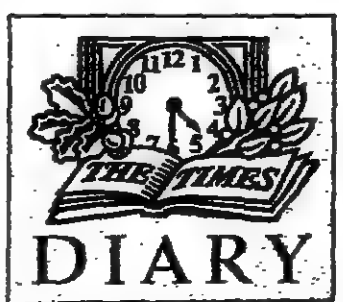
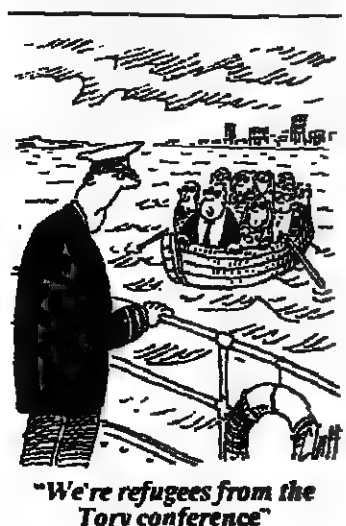
Last month I predicted that Commander Aylard would go, and wrote that he had lost the Prince's confidence and was being blamed for persuading him to confess to adultery on television.

"There's no point him wearing out any of the carpet under his desk. It's the way royalty works: once you've lost their ear you move on," says one source. But Aylard hates being idle, and I predict that he will find new employment before you can say Camilla Parker Bowles.

● Madame Vasso, the old boot who sold the Duchess of York's secrets, has a poor command of English. So poor, I am told, that she takes her son with her into restaurants to translate the menu.

Parking mad

EVEN among the massed ranks of traffic wardens, some behaviour



beggars belief. In the London suburb of East Sheen the other day, a parking ticket was slapped on a hearse outside a funeral parlour as staff were unloading a coffin. The Daimler was parked on a "red route" just off a main road. The Metropolitan Police insist that hearses are never permitted to park on such routes. David Holmes, the funeral director concerned, says that the authorities usually turn a blind eye during quick loadings and unloadings. "I couldn't believe it. It was outrageous, but fortunately the family weren't around, though they might easily have been," he says. "Perhaps it just wasn't the warden's day. He was a small man with a little moustache."

● Youngest bearer of a pass to this week's Tory conference is Charles Hendry, aged 4½ weeks, son of

Charles Hendry, the MP for High Peak and former holder of the title Most Romantic MP. Charles Jr will be coming down with his mother, Sallie, a professional cook, who will launch her book *Cabaret Puddings* with the help of Norma Major.

Versicles

POETRY is the latest diplomatic chip in Arab-Israeli relations. His Excellency Dr Ghazi Alqosaibi, the Saudi Ambassador in London, is renowned for thanking his hosts with a blast of improvised verse. Now he has written a poem addressed to Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister.

Entitled *Biblical*, it appeared in Arabic in *Al-Hayat*, the London Arab newspaper, and has been translated for us by Leslie McLoughlin, director of the London Centre of Arab Studies. There is a Swiftian bite to Alqosaibi's verse:

Such a charming youth, adored by the prettiest damsels,
Fairer yet, if he sways as he walks, eyes dark with kohl.
His eyelids are smooth, his heart of stone...
We on your land are but a gang of sinners.

Should I please you, we'd say should I anger you, depart we would...
How often has passionate love led to a slaying.



Old kids and new: "Ah, that's Blair-o"

● David Willetts, MP, was in the news at the weekend for his secret memo on stifling tactics to be applied to Neil Hamilton. Tonight he pops above the parapet to attend a fringe meeting. The crowd might be a little larger than he expected when he agreed to it. The subject? "Standards in Parliament and the public service."

Kids' stuff

THAT cloying image of the Labour leader and his wife embracing after the Labour Party conference

brought to mind the upturned little faces of the Bisto kids. It was purely coincidental that the Kids were reported to have been pensioned off after 80 years on the very day that the newspapers printed pictures of Tony Blair in a clinch on the podium with Cherie.

The cloth caps of Bisto were missing, of course, and the ur-chins' apparel has been replaced by new Labour suits, but there is no doubting the smug smile and whiff of self-satisfaction.

P.H.S.



BESIDE THE SEASIDE

Why the Tories don't like to be upon the Bournemouth prom

Exactly a year ago, the defection of Alan Howarth to the Labour Party cast a pall over the Conservative Party conference. This year, a senior Tory has peeled off at the other end, to join the Referendum Party. The "defection" of Lord McAlpine may be less damaging, particularly in terms of parliamentary arithmetic. But the critical point is that a year has passed, there are barely seven months to go until the election, and other parties still look more attractive to voters than do the Conservatives.

This time last year, the Labour lead in our September MORI poll was 23 points. Now it is 23 points. After a year in which the economy blossomed, the Cabinet reached a truce over Europe, the leadership question was resolved and cracks began to appear in the Labour façade, a recovery in the polls ought by rights to be well under way.

Indeed, a recovery was thought to be a necessity by now, so that Tory activists meeting in Bournemouth this week would have something to celebrate and could return to their constituencies re-energised for the general election campaign. There was even talk over the summer that John Major could take advantage of indiscipline at Labour's party conference to call an autumn election. How long ago that all seems. Now an immediate election would amount to political *hara-kiri*.

Earlier this year, the Tory strategy was to wait for economic optimism to translate into poll support: a positive advertising campaign would then be followed nearer the general election by an assault on Labour. But the polls did not improve: to Tory irritation, voters still remembered from where the recovery had come, from the collapse of the Government's stubborn exchange rate policy not from its fine economic management. In a desperate attempt to change minds, Brian Ma-

whinney, party chairman, brought forward each campaign stage, and to little avail.

Before last week's Labour conference, the "New Labour, New Danger" slogan seemed to be having some effect. Even if the overall lead in the polls was not being denied, more specific polling questions showed doubts about Labour's policies and about Mr Blair himself. At the same time, Mr Major's ratings and those of his Government were inching up. But polls taken after Mr Blair's speech displayed a sharp rise in support for Labour. If the Tories are to regain ground, they will have both to counter Labour's extravagant claims and match at least some of its sense of unity.

This would be hard enough to achieve without Lord McAlpine's departure and the antics of Neil Hamilton and Ian Greer. Europe remains the most divisive issue, the ghost at all the Bournemouth banquets. Kenneth Clarke has rattled its chains, and others — at fringe meetings if not in the hall — are unlikely to resist his challenge. Future leadership battles will be seen in coded speeches, the marks of a party preparing for opposition.

Some people in Bournemouth today will remember the exemplary precedent in the same resort a decade ago. The 1986 conference, masterminded by Lord Tebbit, was a masterful display of a confident and united party setting out a radical agenda for the coming general election. To recreate that spirit is too much to expect. But the original strategy of early this year is still in place. The economy, by the time of the next election, will be much stronger than it was at the last. The ERM debacle will be further away. Worries about a Labour government can easily be rekindled. In 1986 the Conservatives paraded their invincibility; in 1996 they must rely again on the flag of fear.

ORDER IN THE HOUSE

Parliament needs to devolve power to regain trust

The Prime Minister believes sleaze is "poisoning British politics". He is understandably anxious that the reputations of his colleagues, his party and the Commons have been cheapened by allegations that political influence is a tradeable commodity. Mr Major has asked Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards to conduct a comprehensive investigation in the next two or three weeks. But Sir Gordon, by virtue of his office, is ill-qualified to perform the operation required. In his anxiety to draw the sting Mr Major may risk leaving the toxin in the system.

The reputation of Parliament is dangerously low. Popular feeling towards politicians goes beyond casual cynicism and is tinged with contempt. Public office is seen as a commercial franchise not a duty. In such an atmosphere momentum can develop behind superficially attractive but deeply destabilising constitutional changes. Pressure grows for stripping power from a Parliament answerable to voters and handing it to bodies answerable only to abstractions. Britain's liberties have been secured by, and depend on, the supremacy of Parliament. If Parliament's position is to be safeguarded, then allegations currently facing Neil Hamilton and others have to be investigated in a way which respects natural justice and the rights of the Commons as well as commanding public confidence.

The investigation which Sir Gordon has been asked to conduct is unlikely to command such confidence. Sir Gordon is the servant of the Commons Privileges Committee, which has a Conservative majority and chairman. All the members of that committee are trusted to consider any report as parliamentarians not partisans. But that trust has been placed in jeopardy by the suggestion that the Conservative chairman of the Members' Interests Committee, Sir Geoffrey Johnson-Smith, discussed with the then Tory whip, David Willetts, how to use a Conservative majority when considering an earlier investigation into Mr Hamilton.

Neither man denies the authenticity of the document which details their conversation. It may be that both men have explanations.

But their words as reported make it difficult for any Commons committee to supervise an investigation into Mr Hamilton's conduct. A Tory majority which voted to clear him might not be believed. Even if Tory Members stood aside to allow Labour a majority then any critical conclusions could also be dismissed as politically motivated.

The supremacy of Parliament depends on members putting its good name above that of their party. That appears to have been beyond some. The best way in which to restore Parliament's reputation and satisfy Mr Hamilton's honour would be to have the Commons establish a statutory tribunal of inquiry under the 1921 Act.

Such an inquiry would allow Mr Hamilton and others the chance to hear all the allegations against them, with legal representation and the right to cross-examination. Mr Hamilton may have been guilty of grave misjudgments and of misleading colleagues but he maintains he is innocent of the original charge that he was paid to ask parliamentary questions. Only a tribunal can give a fair hearing now.

Such an inquiry could also restore a sense of proportion to public perceptions of Parliament. The Denning inquiry after the Profumo affair, although procedurally flawed, did at least assuage fears that sexual and security scandals involved other ministers. The Prime Minister believes that this country is relatively free of corruption. What better evidence can others have than that which might be unearthed by a public examination of Ian Greer, Mr Hamilton and Mohamed Al Fayed?

Establishing such a tribunal need not mean, as Mr Major fears, kicking the issue "into the long grass". The tribunal of inquiry into Aberdeen sat for 76 days with nine legal teams and 136 witnesses. Better 11 weeks in the long grass than three in muddy waters. Once the tribunal has reported it will be for the Commons to decide how to act. Having devolved power to an inquiry, it keeps the power to punish and, indeed, reform its own rules. Its sovereignty is not infringed by setting up a tribunal. It is difficult to see how it can be better guaranteed.

GRIP OF ICELAND

Journalists flock to see nature's power in the raw

Iceland, the remote land of ice and fire, has long held the gentler climes of Europe in thrall. For a land so sparse, so barren and so desolate it has wielded a lasting influence on the European imagination. Medieval man saw the northern island, ringed with volcanic fire, as the gateway to hell. Whalers and fishermen, drawn by the rich harvest of its stormy seas, often perished amid the blizzards that iced over their frail vessels. Iceland's sagas found their way into medieval English, and their harsh tales of retribution underpinned the awe in which this Viking land was held.

That awe remains undiminished today. Iceland is still a country where nature rages untamed. The rumblings of a mighty volcano buried almost a mile beneath a glacier presage a devastating eruption. Titanic forces are building up as an underground lake is forced against the icecap and a towering column of ash and steam spews up from the fissures in the glacier. The expected inundation as the ice breaks cannot be far away. Hundreds of journalists have arrived in Reykjavik, the

largest gathering the capital has attracted since President Reagan and President Gorbachev held their summit in 1986.

Iceland's parliament, the Althing, founded 1,000 years ago, can claim to be the cradle of democracy. It was the first country to elect a woman head of state, when Vigdís Finnbogadóttir took office 16 years ago. This geophysicists' playground boasts a workforce where two or three jobs-per-person are a commonplace. It lovingly protects its language and a folklore rich in magic crossroads and trolls. It has the highest literacy rate in the world, a vast yearly output of books, a symphony orchestra, ballet, opera, four national television stations, Europe's largest output of bananas — thanks to geysers-heated hot-houses — a phonebook listing everyone by Christian name, a life expectancy second only to Japan and an enviable standard of living based on a rich catch of cod. Those who flock to view the terrors of nature can only marvel at the tenacity of a people who make a civilised living on one of the globe's most inhospitable terrains.

Tory leadership under pressure over single currency

From Mr Alan Smith

Sir, John Major's attitude to the single currency ("We must not allow EMU to be fudged", October 5; letters, October 7) is ridiculous. The British people are looking to their leaders to give a lead.

Mr Major agonises over so many as yet unknown quantities, yet surely he must know whether or not he wants a single currency — in principle. This is the key. The negotiations only matter if the answer is yes. It is a fundamental question. The same as whether you believe in capitalism or socialism — in principle. Of course there are different shades of both, but the principles are there.

Worse still, he is prepared to go all the way in negotiations with other member states who obviously want the single currency — and then call a referendum. What, may I ask, happens when the people reject it whilst John Major advocates acceptance? How could he then govern with a straight face? Now that, in the words of the Chancellor, really would be "pathetic".

Yours faithfully,
A. G. SMITH,
122 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1,
October 7.

From Mr Edward Leigh, MP for Gainsborough and Horncastle (Conservative)

Sir, There is one way we can unite the Conservative Party over the single currency debate. We are already committed to a referendum. Why not announce that we would also want to test

any decision to join in a subsequent general election as well, before committing ourselves?

Such a policy would allow us to stay in the negotiations, as the Prime Minister wishes, and effectively to rule out a decision to join in the next Parliament, as the party wishes.

Meanwhile we could also pursue our original concept of a common rather than a single currency.

Our policies would then be both market driven and democratically accountable. What could be more popular or Conservative?

Yours sincerely,
EDWARD LEIGH,
House of Commons,
October 7.

From Mr J. C. Stott

Sir, The Prime Minister tells us that "our European partners buy 60 per cent of our exports". This is the figure peddled by the Euro-fanatics. It excludes invisible exports. I believe the true figure to be around 45 per cent. Mr Major is likewise misleading about our investments in the EU: over 80 per cent of our overseas investments (by earnings) are outside the EU.

Confronting what you, Sir, rightly call the most important choice the nation has faced since 1945 (leading article, October 5) the Prime Minister cannot get his facts right.

Yours faithfully,
J. C. STOTT,
Black House,
Coppell Hill, Stafford,
October 6.

Payments to MPs

From Mr Mohamed Al Fayed

Sir, It has not been easy keeping track of the many extraordinary things Mr Ian Greer has said in his own defence in recent days, but when he says that my revelations about his activities were motivated by a "grudge against ministers over [my] failure to secure a British passport..." (report, earlier editions, October 7) it is simple to demonstrate the falsity of the charge.

My brother and I were informed by the Home Office on February 23, 1995, that our applications for naturalisation had been refused. My first public warnings about the improper conduct of MPs associated with Mr Greer appeared on October 19, 1994 — more than four months before.

If anyone was bearing a grudge, perhaps it was the Home Secretary, Mr Michael Howard?

Yours faithfully,
M. AL FAYED
(Chairman),
Harrods Limited,
Knightsbridge, SW1,
October 7.

From Mr Alastair Campbell

Sir, You report today John Major's accusation that Ian Greer "paid for Tony Blair to go on Concord to America". This is untrue. The trip, in 1986, was paid for by the Unitary Tax Campaign. Mr Blair was part of a cross-party delegation to lobby the US Government about the double taxation of UK companies on their US earnings. There was no personal benefit asked for or received.

Mr Blair went in his capacity as a Labour Treasury spokesman. The Government supported the trip and Nigel Lawson wrote to the US Treasury Secretary, James Baker, asking him to see the delegation, which he did.

Yours faithfully,
ALASTAIR CAMPBELL,
(Press Secretary to Tony Blair),
House of Commons,
October 7.

British humour

From Mrs Arpita Mogford

Sir, I have enjoyed to the intellectual razor-sharp humour and wit of Mr Matthew Parris's journalism — but today's Political Sketch on the front page about Tony Blair's Blackpool speech headed "Warning: this body language could offend" reeks of the overpowering excess which has now become a regular feature of the British press.

To many of us, British humour has a special flavour and let those who are gifted with it not sink to this level just to raise a few eyebrows, or draw a few giggles from the undiscriminating.

Yours sincerely,
ARPITA MOGFORD,
1 Grosvenor Court,
90 Sloane Street, SW1,
October 2.

All in the family

From Mr John Payne

Sir, Your front page picture of October 2 (later editions) shows the assembled Blair family at Blackpool. Its caption refers to Tony Booth as Mr Blair's father-in-law, Lyndsey Booth as his sister-in-law but Gale Booth as his "wife's mother".

Is the term "mother-in-law" now deemed to be politically incorrect, or is "wife's mother" a politically correct new Labour expression?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PAYNE,
15 Elm Lane,
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

Turner bequest

From the Chairman of The Turner Society

Sir, It is true that Turner's testamentary wishes have not been met, as Mr Leolin Price, QC, states in his letter (October 4; see also letter, October 1); but the main beneficiary has been the nation, which now owns the entire contents of Turner's studio at the time of his death, although this was not what he intended. Mr Price suggests that there are people who may have a claim to the ownership of the bequest, but it is hard to see where the evidence for this exists.

Turner's will was not clearly drawn and this led to litigation soon after his death in 1851. This resulted in the Charitable Institution for Decayed Artists, which is Turner's chief concern to found, being abandoned and his fortune of £140,000 being distributed among relatives for whom he cared very little.

Turner's bequest to the National Gallery was only of his finished pictures and was dependent on a room or rooms being built to house them with

From Major-General M. S. Hancock

Sir, Mr Tony Marlow, MP, writes (letter, September 26) that "it is impossible for the Conservative Party to win the election" without declared opposition to the single currency.

How many are there like me (and other voters in my family) who, after a lifetime of voting Conservative, are going to vote Lib-Dem because it appears to be the only party which wholeheartedly supports the views of Heath who took us into Europe, of Thatcher who signed the declaration in favour of an ever closer Europe, and of Major who promised to put Britain at the heart of Europe?

Yours faithfully,
M. S. HANCOCK,
Brakey Hill, Godstone, Surrey,
September 28.

From Mr Paul Sutton

Sir, Chancellor Kohl's comment that Mrs Thatcher has a 19th-century view and so couldn't accept the prospect of "Germany ending the century a winner and her own nation a loser" (report, October 3) tells us more about Germany's real aims than he might have intended.

Perish the thought, but isn't the concept of Germany, or Britain for that matter, as the "winner" an extremely nationalistic one, and completely at odds with Germany's pious, much flaunted "post-nationalism" and European idealism?

Yours faithfully,
PAUL SUTTON,
24 Duke Street, Boileau, Oxford,
October 3.

In ten years — and in case this was not done Turner wished them to be exhibited in his Queen Anne Street studio until the lease ran out; they were then to be sold, together with the unfinished oils and all the watercolours and sketchbooks, for the benefit of the Charitable Institution. This never existed, and the entire collection was retained by the nation, which most certainly has done honour to Turner. It cannot be right to accuse the nation, or its representatives, of immoral disregard for his conditions.

The bequest is today housed in the Clive Gallery, except for a handful of key pictures in the National Gallery. It is surely essential that Turner should be worthily represented in Trafalgar Square, although the display should certainly be altered from time to time by exchanges with the Clive.

Yours truly,
EVELYN JOLL,
The Turner Society,
BCM Box Turner,
London WC1N 3XX,
October 4.

Dunblane massacre

From Mr Robin Gray

Sir, Stephen Farrell ("On the front line in Dunblane", October 2) finished his article by saying that after attending Lord Cullen's public inquiry "I certainly felt no closer to knowing what went on in one man's mind on March 13. I still have no idea."

This is a pity. Thomas Hamilton killed the children, their teacher and himself because he was in psychological pain — in other words, he was suffering. His problem was not mental in the sense of rational intellectual function. It was to do with his feelings and emotions and the way he mismanaged them: mishandled them all his life.

This perverted his behaviour and resulted in the tragedy. It was a suicide above all and he killed the children because they represented for him all the qualities he did not have: the

joy, innocence and spontaneity of a loved and happy child. "If I cannot have these qualities why should others?"

Hamilton killed and died because of pain, he killed and died for lack of love. The whole story revolves around children from beginning to sordid end. Children who receive love, give love in return, children give back what they receive — and this is not polemic.

The handling of emotions is a skill which can be taught. Emotional needs of children and adolescents must be taken seriously. To teach adults emotional competence is more difficult, but it is never too late. Understanding is so much better than blame.

Yours sincerely,
ROBIN GRAY,
Chemin du Petit-Chêne 11,
1860 Aigle, Switzerland,
October 3.

Lottery funds

From the Editor of NGO Finance

Sir, In your reports on Tony Blair's Labour conference speech you mentioned plans to redirect the Millennium Fund's share of lottery money into educational, health and environmental projects after the year 2000 ("Lottery rethink to fund social projects", October 2).

Despite protestations that these funds would be "on top of existing departmental budgets", there is surely a danger of their creeping assimilation into Treasury thinking when the going gets tough in future spending rounds.

As a security against this, the lottery cash could be deposited in a new independent permanent endowment fund which would be invested, distributing only income.

Middle East crisis

From Ms Sue Pheasey

Sir, A BBC newsreader has just spoken of the desire to find "common ground" between the Israelis and Palestinians. Sadly, that is the heart of the problem.

Yours faithfully,
SUE PHEASEY,
30 Broad Oaks Road,
Solihull, Warwickshire,
October 2.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

If the National Lottery had been in existence 15 years ago and such a fund had been initiated, it would by now be worth a staggering £7.5 billion and be distributing the best part of £300 million per annum.

Eventually the bookies or pools operators will work out how to compete more effectively with the lottery and the flow of funds may diminish as a result. Rather than spending everything as and when it arrives, this new endowment would create a permanent and growing source of independent funding that is as immune to political interference as it is to the whims of the punters.

Yours sincerely,
DANIEL PHELAN, Editor,
NGO Finance,
Plaza Publishing Ltd,
1a Tradesant Road, SW5,
October 3.

New tower for London

From Mr Michael Hammons

Sir, I am touched by Mr Fletcher Robinson's simple faith (letter, September 27) that "the best way to remove the building blight in the City is to actively encourage the best architects in the world to replace it."

Surely it was they who created it in the first place?

Yours, with *déjà vu*,
MICHAEL HAMMONS,
4 Bramble Close, Highgate, N6,
October 1.

Tough choices for transport policy

From the Chairman of the CBI Transport Policy Committee

Sir, The Confederation of British Industry wants prudence to be a watchword in this year's Budget. But the need for discipline in our public finances must not be the excuse for taking, yet again, a short-term view on transport infrastructure investment.

Maintaining and improving roads and railways is essential to a successful economy. Failure to do so will damage the nation's efficiency and competitiveness.

Likewise, London cannot continue to function as a world-class city and a cornerstone of our tourism and financial sectors if we allow its underground network to crumble.

The CBI estimates that the UK needs to invest an extra £2 billion a year over the next decade in our transport network.

Private finance can help meet this need, particularly if our recent recommendations on the Private Finance Initiative are adopted. But PFI is not a magic wand which exempts Government from making tough choices on public spending priorities.

Whilst overall government spending must be restrained, basic investment in the country's infrastructure must be given much greater importance.

Essential spending cannot be postponed without leaving us all poorer.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT NAPIER,
Chairman,
CBI Transport Policy Committee,
CBI Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1,
October 3.

Global yacht race

From Miss Lucy Fleming

Sir, I sympathise with Tracey Capstick and I empathise with James Capstick (letters, October 3).

I was the original co-winner of the *Times* sponsored berth and did all the training with Jim, only having to withdraw when my brother died unexpectedly.

Life and death often go hand in hand and the news of Jim's third child was at the more optimistic end of the scale than mine.

Most people can't understand the desire to take part in such a race as the BT Global Challenge, but if it's there it's there, comprehensible or not.

I am sure that the soul-searching that Jim went through was nothing compared with Tracey's dilemma, but he's off now working (and quite often spewing) his guts out. She is going to have to endure the extraordinary process of childbirth and continue to care for the family without his support.

It's a tough call. I'm with them both and wish them all possible luck. Maybe when they are woken at 4am to deal with wet ropes or wet nappies and howling babies or gales they will feel a certain togetherness. Probably not.

Bon voyage to all the fleet.

Yours faithfully,
LUCY FLEMING,
Bromsden Farm,
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,
October 3.

Full house

From Mr J. Sharp

Sir, Since I shall no doubt fail yet again to win a bottle of single malt whisky, might I possibly have a prize for spotting that the answers to your crossword for September 28 contained, for the first time in my 30 years' experience, all the letters of the alphabet at least twice each (two Zs, Qs, Xs, Vs and Js; and four Ys and Ks)?

Yours faithfully,
J. SHARP,
27 Ward Way,
Bechill, East Sussex,
September 30.

All that glisters

From Mr Peter Anderson

Sir, Bernard Levin is wrong ("Travels in golden realms", October 4) to conclude that gold is "absolutely and entirely useless".

It has at least one real use (to which Mr Levin passively refers) in dentistry. My dentist tells me that it has the same coefficient of expansion as the material of which human teeth are composed.

Yours faithfully,
P. G. ANDERSON,
Bouges Farm, Brooks Green,
Horsham, West Sussex,
October 4.

From Mr Timothy A. Pickford

Sir, It was fascinating to learn of the ingenious methods employed by gold smugglers when going about their business.

However, in the interest of his own personal safety before imparting such information, surely Bernard Levin would be wiser to follow the old Arab proverb "speech is silver, silence is golden".

Yours faithfully,
TIMOTHY A. PICKFORD,
1 Farmcombe Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
October 4.

OBITUARIES

LORD ROSKILL

Lord Roskill, PC, Lord of Appeal in Ordinary, 1980-86, died on October 4 aged 85. He was born on February 6, 1911.

Justice Roskill had a long and distinguished career at the Bar and on the Bench. In fact, his professional life came in two almost equal halves — 29 years as practising barrister and 24 as a sitting judge. Justice Roskill was the son of a KC and the youngest and last surviving of four exceptional brothers: one, Sir Ashton, also a QC and chairman of the Monopolies Commission; another, Captain Stephen Roskill, a well-known naval historian; and the third, Oliver, an engineer and the acknowledged doyen of management consultants.

Justice Roskill, perhaps the most eminent, was an exhibitioner both at Winchester and Exeter College, Oxford, where he took a first in Modern History. In 1932 he was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple as a Harrower Scholar and served his pupillage first with John Morris (later Lord Morris of Borth-y-Cesg) and then with Sir Henry Wilkins, which took him into the well-known commercial chambers at Nos 3 and 4, Essex Court, where he was to spend the rest of his time at the Bar.

The Thirties were not a period of prosperity for barristers, but they enabled Roskill to acquire the foundation of his great knowledge of commercial law, particularly in shipping and marine insurance. He came through these tough early years despite a severe breakdown in his health after his mother was killed in a disastrous fire at the family house in Montague Square.

During the war, he worked in the Ministries of Shipping and War Transport, and acquired wide experience in these fields. Many wartime disputes remained to be resolved after 1945, and his practice on returning to the Bar was at first largely based on these, but then proliferated rapidly.

His many pupils included John Donaldson, later to become Master of the Rolls. In 1951 he became a Deputy Chairman of Hampshire Quarter Sessions and then Chairman from 1960 to 1971, when the Crown Court was set up. He took silk in 1953, and was always regarded as a certainty for the Bench. This came in 1962. Although he inevitably spent much of his time in the Commercial Court, he became an "all-rounder" from the start and soon acquired a high reputation in criminal and personal injury cases as well. He was a popular judge, because it was always a pleasure for a barrister to appear before him. He was never pompous, always courteous, quick and human. The essentials of every case before him were the people; the litigants, witnesses, counsel, and solicitors; and then the facts, not merely the legal issues. He was a first-class lawyer, but his main concern was always the truth.

He was invariably firm in accepting or rejecting evidence and in expressing his views about the reliability of witnesses. In his sentences in criminal cases he never shrank from severity when he felt it to be deserved. If he had only been a judge, he never seemed to be in any doubt. But no one could blame him for having presided over the court which in 1977 refused leave to appeal to the Guildford Four, the alleged IRA bombers whose convictions were ultimately set aside in 1989 on the ground that they had been procured by false police evidence. That only came to light, almost by chance, some 12 years later in one of the most remarkable incidents in recent legal history.

His versatility was recognised as early as 1967 when he became the first vice-chairman of the newly-established Parole Board. From 1968 to 1970 he had the unenviable task of serving the chairman of the commission on the Third London Airport. The fact that its recommendations were ultimately not accepted, and that the project led to a great deal of further debate and a second inquiry a decade later, was in no way his fault or that of the Commission. Its recommendations foundered in politics and economic difficulties. Local feelings ran high in the various sites proposed, and he used to say that he believed himself to be the first judge burnt in office since Chief Justice Jeffreys after the "bloody assize" of 1685.

In 1971 his industry and the quality of his work were predictably rewarded when he was elevated to the Court of Appeal. He then added the chairmanship of the Senate of the Inns of Court to his burdens in 1972. In the same year he was made an Honorary Fellow of his old Oxford college, Exeter. Eight years later the only surprise occasioned to the Bench and the profession by his elevation to be a Law Lord stemmed from the fact that it had not happened earlier. The year of his appointment, which was accompanied by a life peerage, was also the year he spent as Treasurer of the Middle Temple.

During his final years on the Bench, he took on the chairmanship of a second inquiry of great importance in his life, the Fraud Trials Committee. The need for it was rightly reflected in the opening sentences of its report in 1986, "after three years of heavy work". The public no longer believes that the legal system in England and Wales is capable of bringing the perpetrators of serious frauds expeditiously and effectively to book. The overwhelming weight of the evidence laid before us suggests that the public is right."

While the public, especially after the ignominious failure of the Maxwell prosecution, probably still holds the same view, there can be no doubt that the Fraud Trials Committee had a great influence on the reform of our system of criminal justice. Its recommendations led to the bulk of the Criminal Justice Act, 1987, which established the ill-fated Serious Fraud Office, and the important new system of "preparatory hearings" (commonly called pre-trial reviews) in fraud cases, which are designed to ensure a definition of the crucial issues well in advance of the trial, preferably before the same specialist judge, and in a way which may be made intelligible to a jury.

A particularly useful novel feature was the concurrent power of the court to order the defendants to disclose the main points of their defence in advance. The Criminal Justice Act, 1988, then enacted another important recommendation of the committee: to abolish peremptory challenges to jurors by either side, leaving only the right to challenge "for cause". The justification for this change was the



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increasing manipulation of the composition of juries in the hope of benefiting defendants.

But these were only the bare bones of the committee's recommendations, the ones that required legislation. A vast number of other recommendations concerning procedure and evidence were adopted by changes in the practice of the courts, not only in cases of fraud, and have brought lasting reforms to the system of preparing and conducting heavy criminal trials.

However, the single most striking and principal recommendation in the committee's report was not accepted (even if it must now seem more than ever urgent). Roskill and all but one of his seven colleagues recommended the trial of complex fraud cases without juries by a "Frauds Trials Tribunal" consisting of a specialist judge and two lay members. This provoked an inevitable chorus of traditionalist opposition, and an equally inevitable reluctance by the Lord Chancellor and Tory Cabinet of the day to venture into the political quicksands on what seemed — at the time — such a relatively limited issue. No doubt, from Lord Hall'sham downwards, they knew better now.

In retrospect, the report of the Fraud Trials Committee will be seen as Roskill's greatest single achievement. But although its publication in 1986 coincided with his retirement from the Bench on reaching the statutory age of 75, his working career was far from over. He continued to sit frequently, both in the Lords and in the Privy Council, and he was greatly in demand as an arbitrator, both here and in the Commonwealth. Among other part-time occupations he also became chairman of the Appeals Committee of the Takeover Panel and had to deal with a number of

important controversies in this relatively new field.

These were the milestones of an illustrious legal career. In comparison with his greatest contemporaries on the Bench — Lords Reid, Wilberforce, Diplock and, above all, Denning — he could not claim an equal profundity of scholarship. His interests in the law lay primarily in the practicalities and the marshalling of complex facts. And it is probably as a man that he will be chiefly remembered. He helped and befriended countless young men and women in the law, and many who are now on the Bench will never forget his support and encouragement in their early struggles. Unlike some other judges, he was always approachable. He never lost touch with his friends at the Bar or among the ranks of solicitors, and was totally accessible to everyone.

For many years he lived on the top floor of New Court in the Middle Temple, constantly inviting people to come and see him, calling on barristers in their chambers, and talking "shop" with groups of people on his way to and from court. He will be remembered for his charm, his conversation, his interest in people and events, the fluency though sometimes also the length of his extempore judgments and his unflinching sense of humour.

Although he did not marry until 1947, when he was 36, his family life was exceptionally happy and close. His wife, Elizabeth, supported him in all he did and, with his encouragement, herself became an active magistrate in Hampshire, dividing her time between her home in Newbury and their flat in the Temple. She survives him, together with a son and two daughters.

PAUL DRAPER

Paul Draper, tap dancer, died on September 20 aged 86. He was born on October 25, 1909.

PAUL DRAPER was the inventive performer who pushed tap dancing on from its vaudeville roots into the concert hall. Having trained with George Balanchine, he knew how to use his whole body when he danced, not just his feet, and he held some advanced theories on what made the right musical accompaniment for a tap dancer. Unlike his contemporary, Fred Astaire, he made few films, and those that he did gave only a glimpse of his mesmerising presence on stage. His best work was done with Larry Adler, who began his career as a mouth organist by accompanying Draper.

Draper was born in Florence into a free-thinking, expatriate American household. His great-grandfather, Charles Dana, had launched the *New York Sun*. His mother, Muriel, a writer and lecturer, returned with her sons to America after her marriage to

Paul's father, a singer, had failed. She became a notable hostess, entertaining Picasso, Arthur Rubinstein and Paul Robeson as guests.

Their home was filled with classical music at a time when jazz and ragtime were beginning to dominate the American music scene, and Draper absorbed it all. He was a restless boy, and spent much of his youth being expelled from private schools. Afterwards, he started to teach ballroom dancing and, intrigued by a friend's tap dancing skills, he took three tap lessons from a Broadway dancer named Tommy Nip. He was so bad at it that Nip advised him to give up but, undaunted, Draper sailed to London, where he hoped standards would not be so exacting.

Even with the aid of family introductions to C. B. Cochran and Noel Coward, however, Draper found making a living in England difficult. After touring with *Sensations of 1932*, he moved to Paris where he got a job in a café, dancing on a 3ft-tall-high marble pedestal. He had become reasonably good by the time he returned to America a year



later, but he was still dissatisfied with the prevailing philosophy behind tap, which was

that the more a performer "laid down iron" (the more furiously he banged down his metal-plated shoes), the better dancer he was.

Draper began to experiment with dancing to classical music. He tried a Bach gigue but thought his arms and upper body looked wrong. So he enrolled at the School of American Ballet where, having no previous training, he had to suffer the ignominy of being placed in a class of ten-year-olds. However, the lessons he took with George Balanchine gave him the technique he needed to develop his dancing, in a more fluid, rhythmically appropriate direction, particularly when he was dancing to the classics. Draper also met his wife there, a ballerina, Heidi Vesseler, whom he married in 1941.

Draper's career took off when he left the school. He appeared in his first film *Colleen with Ruby Keeler* in 1936, and *The Time of Your Life* followed in 1948. But Draper was not cut out for Hollywood. He had a stammer since childhood which he later grew out of, but the impediment hindered his film career as well as ruining his efforts of being accepted into the Army (he was rejected on the ground that he would not be able to give orders effectively).

Throughout the late 1930s Draper danced at New York's top nightspots: the Rainbow Room, the Pershing Room, the Plaza Hotel and Carnegie Hall. In 1940 he teamed up with Larry Adler, who played the mouth organ while Draper danced. The partnership made Draper even more of a sensation, and they were booked at the largest venues in the country — the Symphony Hall in Chicago, and the San Francisco Opera House.

Their programme would open with Draper dancing to Adler's interpretations of Debussy or Strauss, for instance. Then Adler might take a rest while Draper powered through his unaccompanied *Sonata for Tap Dancer*, which took 17 minutes to perform, and included four

movements. During the second half, Adler would play mostly jazz. Requests from the audience would form the encore, and Draper would end on a furious, eight-minute version of *I Got Rhythm*.

Draper's professional decline began with the onset of the McCarthy era. He made no secret of how much he despised the work of the House Committee on Un-American Activities, but he was never a Communist. In 1949 he and Adler sued a housewife from Connecticut after she had accused them of being pro-Communist. The trial ended in a hung jury in 1950. The same year Draper's dance routine was removed from the television broadcast of *Foot of the Town* after the network had received protests about its inclusion.

In this hysterical atmosphere, possibilities for work in America looked decidedly bleak. Like many other performers, Draper left for work in Geneva and Britain. Looking back on that time, he said that he would have been ashamed, in those depressing days for American entertainers, had he not been blacklisted.

He returned to America in 1954 but the climate had changed in the interim. Vaudeville and cabaret were in decline, teenagers wanted to rock and roll, not watch tap dancing. Draper rented a studio and rehearsed by himself seven hours a day. Gradually he established a niche for himself on Broadway as the oldest statesman of tap. He scored a particular triumph dancing the title role of Stravinsky's *Histoire du Soldat* at the Phoenix Theatre in 1955. Through his fifties and sixties, he choreographed shows, taught students and made the occasional guest appearance in musicals. His wife died in 1992, and a year later he and his daughter were injured in a car accident. Though he was confined to a chair after that, he continued to teach and to provide an exacting inspiration for a new generation of tap dancers.

Draper leaves his three daughters.

DICK PARRACK

Dick Parrack, former managing editor of the *News of the World*, died of lung cancer yesterday aged 69. He was born on October 6, 1927.



DICK PARRACK was a formidable journalistic all-rounder — three times an editor in the provinces, assistant editor of *The Sun* when it was rapidly building its huge circulation in the 1970s, and then managing editor of the *News of the World* from 1984 until 1988.

A giant of a man, who had been a powerful rugby player in his youth, he displayed an affable manner which disguised an intense devotion to his work and an ability to be tough when necessary. And like many of his generation of Fleet Street, both men and women, he put into practice the old adage, "play hard, work hard". A good lunch with colleagues was a delight to him, but was no more than a sensible pause in a day that often stretched from mid-morning to midnight and beyond.

During a party at a Lancashire hotel to celebrate an important anniversary at the *Lancashire Evening Telegraph*, he insisted on playing the drums during the band's break. But a small three-legged drumming stool was no match for his considerable bulk, and he toppled backwards out of sight into the backstage void. Returning some long minutes later, dusting himself down, he earned a standing ovation from his staff for what they saw as sporting behaviour. As the newly launched *Evening Post* at Hemel Hempstead, where he succeeded the launch editor Eugene Wason, who went on to a distinguished career in the ever-uncomfortable editor's chair of the *Belfast Telegraph*, Parrack showed a sureness of touch at the helm of one of the newspapers which pioneered, well before its time, the new technology of printing. He was immensely popular with staff, who recognised in him a professionalism, sense of direction and a degree of high-

minedness which now often appears a scarce commodity in local newspapers.

Richard Mainland Parrack learnt the basics of his trade on the *Shields Gazette*, a Tyneside evening paper renowned for pushing its young journalists hard.

After National Service with the RAF, he joined the *Newcastle Journal* as a sub-editor, swiftly earning promotion to chief sub-editor and assistant editor.

The owners of the *Newcastle Journal*, the Thomson Group, sent him to Lancashire as editor of the *Blackburn Evening Telegraph*. Later he edited the same group's evening papers at Middlesbrough and Luton.

There was a strong Tyneside representation (Tynesiders called it a mafia) in the hierarchy of *The Sun* in its early, dynamic years as a tabloid, and Parrack needed little persuasion to join them in the cramped Bouverie Street headquarters they shared with the giant *News of the World*. His long experience, cool head and ability to get the best out of others helped him to make his mark in an intensely competitive atmosphere.

After helping to ensure the successful transfer of the *News of the World* and *Sun* to Wapping, Parrack retired to a quieter country life in Wiltshire eight years ago. He died on the day after his 69th birthday.

He leaves his wife, Kathleen, a son and a daughter.

BIRTHDAYS

MR EMERY Davies, former Diplomat 62.

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CHEAPER POSTAGE

RETURN TO PENNY RATE. To the Editor of The Times.

It has been pointed out by General Smuts, who at the first meeting of the Economic Conference on Tuesday declared that "communications are of the essence of our Empire, and unless we succeed in solving some of the more urgent problems of more rapid and cheaper communications it will be almost impossible in the future to hold together this vast Empire scattered over the whole globe." Among the most pressing of these "more urgent problems" the subject of cheaper postage undoubtedly holds the foremost place, for whatever plans are adopted to reconstruct the commerce of the world must be shorn of more than half their value without a return to the penny post, which during the normal development in pre-war days came rightly to be looked on as the keystone to ever-increasing prosperity. And in these days how much more surely must a penny post become the solution of many of the

ON THIS DAY

October 8, 1923

The penny post never returned and the charge remained at 1d for several more years. At the time of writing, there were 240 pence to a pound.

complex questions which now confront our statesmen! Although to Great Britain alone belongs the proud distinction of having been the first to inaugurate a penny letter post, she cannot now be the pioneer in its restoration within the Empire, for this month penny postage has come into operation in New Zealand, while its early adoption is confidently anticipated in Australia also, last year's postal profit having been £1,500,000, which some of her public men contend was money filched from taxpayers' pockets, as "the Post Office should not be run at a profit." Our trade with another most important Dominion, Canada, must suffer no less than our trade with more distant territories because of our high rates of postage as compared with the penny post of America, which brings to her doors much that is thus lost to ourselves, and which secures to her also a large volume of business from the various countries in the Southern States, where special postal rates between North and South America are gradually shutting out our merchandise and manufactures. It is certain that in the matter of postal rates there can now be no resting place short of the penny post being restored, not only to the whole of the Empire and America, but further extended in our own interests to the whole world. The magic penny is the magic axis round which the wheels of the Empire's trade and industry will move with ever-increasing momentum.

Your obedient servant, BLYTH Portland Place, London.

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Chancery Division

Law Report October 8 1996

Employment Appeal Tribunal

Court cannot ignore insolvency set-off rule

In re BCCI SA (in liquidation) (No 9)

Before Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor (Judgment August 6)

The court had no inherent power to disapply rule 4.90 of the Insolvency Rules (SI 1986 No 1925) regarding set-off or any other substantive rule forming part of the statutory scheme under the 1986 Act or Rules.

Accordingly, where ancillary English liquidators of a foreign company which was being wound up principally in its place of incorporation, wished to transfer the funds at their disposal to the foreign liquidators to facilitate a worldwide distribution among creditors *pari passu*, but the two jurisdictions had contrary rules as to insolvency set-off, the English liquidators should retain sufficient funds to satisfy those creditors proving in the English liquidation who would be entitled to enjoy the benefit of set-off under rule 4.90.

Sir Richard Scott, Vice-Chancellor, so held in a reserved judgment in the Chancery Division on application by the English liquidators of BCCI SA for directions as to whether before transferring funds to the Luxembourg liquidators of BCCI, the English liquidators should make provision for various matters and principally whether or to what extent the court could disapply rule 4.90 of the 1986 Rules in order to allow the rules of Luxembourg insolvency regarding set-off to apply.

The 12 respondents to the application were the Luxembourg liquidators of BCCI SA and representative creditors and debtors of BCCI SA.

Mr Michael Crystal, QC, Mr Martin Pascoe and Mr Fidelis (Mihail) for BCCI SA England; Mr Nigel Davis, QC, for the Arab Banking Corporation BSC; Miss Hilary Heilbrunn, QC, for the Small of the Rising Group, a net

debtor; Mr John Jarvis, QC and Mr Sandy Shandro, solicitor, for the Deposit Protection Board; Mr Ajmal Husain for the BCCI campaign committee; Mr Anthony Tracey and Mr Michael Gibson for BCC Gibraltar Ltd; Mr Robin Dicker for CM Fashions (Leeds) Ltd, a net creditor; Mr Simon Morrison, QC, for the Bank of China; Miss Susan Previzer for BCCI SA Isle of Man; Miss Susan Previzer for BCCI SA Scotland; Mr Ian Geering, QC and Mr Richard Snowden for the Luxembourg liquidators of BCCI SA; Mr John Brinsby, QC, for Mr Peter Ackermann, a creditor; Miss Barbara Duhmann, QC and Mr Tom Beazley for the English liquidation committee.

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR said that BCCI SA was incorporated in Luxembourg and formed part of a group that carried on a banking business on an international scale, much of which was transacted in the United Kingdom. BCCI SA was the wholly owned subsidiary of BCCI Holdings (Luxembourg) SA. BCCI SA went into liquidation in Luxembourg on January 3 1992. It was followed by a winding-up order made in England on January 14 1992. It was accepted that Luxembourg, the country where the company was incorporated, was the principal liquidation and that the liquidation in England was ancillary.

The rules as to set-off for debtors/creditors in two jurisdictions were very different. In Luxembourg if a creditor also owed the company money, he was obliged to pay his debt in full before receiving what in an insolvency liquidation, would only be a dividend on the whole of the sum due to him.

In England, by virtue of rule 4.90 of the 1986 Rules, a debtor/creditor could set off his debt to the company and prove for and receive a dividend on any credit balance. Thus up to the extent of the debt he owed the company, the creditor would receive 100 pence in the pound.

The English liquidators had at their disposal, as a result of various prior agreements, 48.5 per cent of the global realisations of BCCI, the total value of which was about US\$2 billion, as well as some US\$25 million which were the proceeds of the realisation of English assets.

The English liquidators wished to transfer those assets to the Luxembourg liquidators so that the latter could distribute the company's assets among the worldwide creditors *pari passu*.

However, such a distribution would be made in accordance with Luxembourg law and so insolvency set-off under rule 4.90 would not apply. The English liquidators therefore sought the determination of the court as to whether they should retain funds to satisfy the claims of debtors/creditors who proved in the English liquidation in order to give them the benefit of the set-off provisions in rule 4.90.

It was unclear whether there were any and if so what limits to the extent to which English liquidators in a so-called "ancillary" liquidation could decline to apply provisions of English insolvency law and procedure in deference to the law of the country in which the principal winding-up was taking place.

The power of the courts to wind up companies was a statutory power. In the Vice-Chancellor's judgment, the courts had no more inherent power to disapply the statutory insolvency scheme than to disapply the provisions of any other statute.

Section 125 of the 1986 Act provided: "(1) On hearing a winding-up petition the court may dismiss it, or adjourn the hearing conditionally or unconditionally, or make an interim order, or any other order that it thinks fit."

Mr Brinsby suggested that the words "any other order that it

thinks fit" could provide the requisite power.

In his Lordship's opinion, however, the words could not bear the weight sought to be placed on them. They had, surely, to be read subject to the classical general rule and, so read, could not authorise the coupling-up of a winding-up order with a direction disapplying some part of the statutory winding-up scheme.

It was true that Sir Donald Nicholls in approving an earlier agreement, and the Court of Appeal, in dismissing the appeal against his order, had been prepared to approve the entry by the English liquidators into an agreement one effect of which might have been to vary the *pari passu* rule governing distributions to creditors.That agreement represented, however, a compromise of claims and cross-claims between the liquidators and the Abu Dhabi majority shareholders. The variation of the *pari passu* rule was a term of that compromise.

The court had an undoubted power under section 167 of the 1986 Act to authorise liquidators to compromise claims and both Sir Donald Nicholls and the Court of Appeal found the requisite power in that section. Section 167 was, however, of no relevance to the present issue.

There was, nonetheless, a long line of authority describing an English liquidation as an "ancillary" liquidation where the company concerned was a foreign company in liquidation in its country of incorporation which appeared to approve the placing of limits on the functions of the English liquidators.

His Lordship considered those authorities and accepted that the functions of such ancillary liquidators were to realise assets, settle a list of creditors and transmit the assets and the list to the principal liquidators to enable a dividend to be declared and paid. Nonetheless, the ancillary

character of an English winding-up did not relieve an English court of the obligation to apply English law, to the resolution of any issue arising in the winding-up which was brought before the court. It might be, of course, that English conflicts of law rules would lead to the application of some foreign law principle in order to resolve a particular issue.

Mr Goering, supported by Mr Brinsby, submitted that the Insolvency Rules, as a whole, were procedural and that it was only in that procedural context that rule 4.90 created substantive rights. The court had, they submitted, power to disapply those procedural rules, either in whole or in part, in deference to the rules of the principal liquidation.

They submitted that if that were not so, the court could not make any order varying any of the procedures prescribed by the 1986 Act and Rules, even, for example, an order for the transmission of the assets to the principal liquidators. The position, they said, was all or nothing.

His Lordship found the logic of their submissions compelling but he was not persuaded that they were right.

The established power of the court to direct English liquidators to transmit funds to the principal liquidator had not established the power of the court to disapply rule 4.90 or any other substantive rule forming part of the statutory scheme under the 1986 Act or Rules.

There were also practical considerations in the present case which meant that even if his Lordship had had jurisdiction to disapply rule 4.90 it was not practicable to do so.

Accordingly, rule 4.90 applied in the English winding-up and had to be given effect to. The question of what retentions should be made by the English liquidators to protect the positions of net creditors and net debtors had to be answered on that footing.

His Lordship had come to the clear conclusion that provision should be made by the English liquidators for the dividend that net creditors would receive in an English winding-up but that no provision should be made for net debtors who would be unable to prove in an English winding-up and to whom the English liquidators had no liability.

Solicitors: Lovell White Durrant; Norton Rose; Sheridans; Clifford Chance; Sprecher Grier; Stephenson Harwood; Wilde Saple; Clifford Chance; Lovell White Durrant for Cains, Isle of Man; Lovell White Durrant for Shepherd & Wedderburn, WS, Edinburgh; Hammond Suddards; Hammond Suddards; Memory Crystal.

Female firefighter suffered sex bias

Hereford and Worcester County Council and Others v Clayton

Before Lord Justice Mummery, Ms S. R. Corby and Miss A. Mace

Judgment October 3. A remark by a fire brigade officer to his watch that "the bad news" was that the new member of the watch was going to be a woman, although not made to the woman concerned, was capable of having detrimental consequences for her for the purposes of establishing unlawful sex discrimination.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal so held when dismissing an appeal by Hereford and Worcester County Council, Gordon Perkins and Ronald East from the decision of a Shrewsbury industrial tribunal dated March 30, 1995, upholding a complaint of sex discrimination by Mrs Tania Clayton against her employers, the Hereford and Worcester Fire Brigade, and two fellow employees, Sub-Officer Perkins and Sub-Officer East.

Ms Joema Omambala for the county council; Ms Louise Chudleigh for Mr Perkins and Mr East; Mr David Bean for Mrs Clayton.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that Mrs Clayton had made 34 specific complaints of sex discrimination ranging over the five years of her employment in the fire service.

The industrial tribunal found 15 acts of discrimination and concluded that Mrs Clayton had been less favourably treated, on the ground of her sex, than the male firefighters in that they were not subjected to the same harsh and unfriendly regime as she was.

The appeal had revealed no error of law in the decision. If any criticism was to be made, it was on the ground that the decision did

not explain, and it had not been adequately explained by counsel, why the tribunal had allowed the county council to withdraw an open and unqualified admission of liability contained in a letter to Mrs Clayton's solicitors in February 1994.

In deciding whether to allow the admission to be withdrawn the industrial tribunal would be expected to have acted in accordance with the general principle in civil litigation summarised at note 27/3/85 in volume 1 of *The Supreme Court Practice 1995*. The discretion was exercised on the same principles as governed other kinds of amendment: the balance of prejudice and justice and other factors, such as bad faith.

But that was a matter which would not doubt be relevant to the issue of costs.

The grounds of appeal had covered eight areas, in relation to detriment and treatment it had been submitted that a sexist insult or remark, without more, was not detrimental within the meaning of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, even if the remark caused distress to the applicant.

That submission had been made in the context of an incident in which a divisional officer had stated to the watch: "The good news is that you are getting someone else for the watch, the bad news is that it is a woman, Tania Clayton." The tribunal found that the remark gave the wrong signal to the watch.

There was no error of law in finding that that was detrimental. The remark had not been made to Mrs Clayton but that did not prevent it from having detrimental consequences for her.

The tribunal made findings of two acts of victimisation: (i) the victimisation of Mrs Clayton's cap by persons unknown and (ii) ostracism of her by numerous, but

unspecified, firefighters after she had made her complaint of sex discrimination. The tribunal had found the county council vicariously liable only for the second.

It had been submitted that, as a matter of law, Mrs Clayton could not overcome the hurdle of causation in establishing victimisation, without specifically identifying the alleged discriminators.

The industrial tribunal had properly directed itself as to the requirements of victimisation. It set out the principles as stated in *Atie v Trinity Street Taxis* [1989] QB 463 and its finding was based on the satisfaction of those requirements.

It was also contended that the tribunal had erred in holding that certain acts were continuing acts extending over a period and not, therefore, out of time and in exercising discretion to extend time for those acts which were not continuing.

There was no error of law. The tribunal was entitled to find that the carry down, extra drills and rostering over a period were continuing acts. The tribunal had the widest possible discretion to extend time limits, and there was no legal error in considering the question at the end of the hearing rather than at the beginning.

The county council had complained that all the findings of fact against them were plainly perverse decisions. That ground of appeal was an attempt to secure a rehearing of the whole case for the purpose of persuading the appeal tribunal either to substitute a different decision or to send the matter for rehearing. That was an impossible task and an impermissible request.

Solicitors: Mr R. K. Yates, Worcester; A. Matthews, Hereford; Robin Thompson & Partners, Birmingham.

Outstanding cases

Lloyd's litigation: Outstanding issues

Mr Justice Cresswell issued a statement on September 23 concerning outstanding cases in the Lloyd's litigation in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division.

HIS LORDSHIP said that the Commercial Court wished to identify which, if any, of the outstanding cases forming part of the Lloyd's litigation, as defined in his Lordship's statement dated March 22, 1994 (*The Times* April 5, 1994) (i) which a trial had been assigned and (ii) to which no trial

date had been assigned, remained effective in whole or in part following the recent market settlement.

To that end his Lordship would be grateful if all solicitors acting for names in outstanding cases would write to the clerk to the Commercial Court within the next 14 days setting out the position as to the cases in which they had been instructed.

Such letters should be copied to the solicitors acting for all other parties, who were of course free to write to the clerk to the Commercial Court setting out their understanding of the position.

Majority accept

Aarons and Others v Arthur Andersen and Another, Arbutnot and Others v WMD Underwriting Agencies Ltd, Harry Allen and Others v Same

In view of the 94 per cent level of acceptance by plaintiff names at Lloyd's of the settlement offer, Mr Justice Cresswell, sitting in the Commercial Court of the Queen's Bench Division made the following orders on September 26:

1 Vacating the date of March 3, fixed for the hearing of those actions; 2 Extending generally the time for

compliance with any outstanding directions in those actions; 3 That if any plaintiff wished to pursue his claim in those actions he must within 21 days

(a) give an address for service and details of the solicitors who would be acting for him; (b) apply to the court for further directions: failing which his action would be stayed.

His Lordship emphasised that the defendants had confirmed that no application for an order for costs would be made against any plaintiff who had not participated in the settlement but had within those 21 days given notice of withdrawal.

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GET ONE OF SIX GCSE VIDEOS FOR JUST £2

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Today, The Times offers readers the opportunity to buy any one of six educational videos on national curriculum subjects, specially designed to help children studying to GCSE level, at an exclusive price of just £2 including p&p. Distributed by the Burgess Video Group, the subjects are: Chemistry, Physics, English, Maths, Biology and French

The video series, presented by children's television personality, Nicky Campbell, is called Make The Grade GCSE, and uses an easy and fun system to help young students get to grips with key areas of their GCSE syllabus. Each video takes the viewer through key areas of the subject, in just under an hour, and includes worked examples of vital facts and exam tips, with typical exam questions, common pitfalls, preparation and technique, to help students give, and get, the very best of themselves on exam day.

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS Each application must be made on the correct form, to be published in The Times, and accompanied by four different tokens from the promotion. Maximum one application per household. Staff of Times Newspapers and their families or agents, or promotional parties are not permitted to apply. 28 days will be required for delivery. Incorrect applications and photocopied tokens will be invalid, together with illegible applications.

CHANGING TIMES

BUSINESS DEEP IN DEBT A FRESH START

DON'T GO UNDER COMPANY AND PARTNERSHIP

BUSINESS DEEP IN DEBT A FRESH START

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Striking combination gives Derbyshire welcome lift



DERBYSHIRE the county may have finished runners-up in the cricket county championship, but a Derbyshire from Hull has won the weekly prize in *The Times* Interactive Team Football game. Mr R. Derbyshire, with his team Derbyshire XII, managed to score 21 points in a week when only one match — that between Newcastle United and Aston Villa — counted.

Indeed, Mr Derbyshire selected the perfect set of strikers: York and Ferdinand as a pairing could not be bettered. In the overall competition for £50,000, Mr J. Szuszkiewicz, of Ramsey, Isle of Man, remains out in front, six points clear. He is the September manager of the month.

Mr Derbyshire's team is:

Goalkeeper
P Evans (Leeds)

Full backs
S Harkness (Liverpool)
S I Bjornebye (Liverpool)

Central defenders
M McKay (Celtic)
J Pemberton (Leeds)

Midfield players
G Peacock (Chelsea)
S McCall (Barnsley)
J McNally (Rotherham)
N Butt (Manchester Utd)

Strikers
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)
D York (Aston Villa)

Manager
K Keegan (Newcastle)



Les Ferdinand scores one of his two goals against Aston Villa last week, boosting his ITF score to an impressive 19



You can use the ITF transfer system to improve your fortunes. This allows you to

change up to two players each week and to adjust your team if one of your players is actually transferred out of the FA Carling Premiership or Bell's Scottish League premier division.

You can make transfers only by telephone. Using a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone), call the 0891 866 968 line during the times given. From outside the United Kingdom, you must call 0044 990 200 668.

When making a transfer, you must ensure that the team does not contain more than two individuals (two players or one player and a manager) from the same club.

If you are lagging behind the leading team selectors, the transfer system will be an appealing option to you in the chase for the prizes — the overall £50,000, monthly £1,000 or weekly £250.

□ All Interactive Team Football transfer entries should be directed to 0171-757 7016. All other inquiries can be made on 01582 488 122.

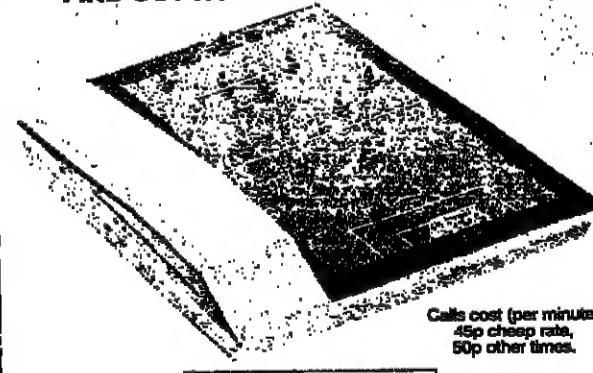
THIS WEEK'S TRANSFERS

IN	OUT
50905 52603... 42303... 41907... 61301...	Egil Odegaard Rory Allen Jim McIntyre (from Roth Rowers) Graham Kavanagh Alex Miller LONDON PLAYERS McGladrick (from Arsenal to Manchester City, two weeks), M Taylor (Derby to Crewe, two weeks), D Woodall (Derby to Manchester City, one month), D Huckerby (Newcastle to Millwall, one week), C Holland (Newcastle to Birmingham, one week), S Angel (Sunderland to Stockport, two weeks), K Down (West Ham to Reading, one week), T Wright (Nottingham Forest to Reading, three weeks). (Loan periods subject to fluctuation)

THE LEADING 250 ENTRIES IN THE TIMES INTERACTIVE TEAM FOOTBALL GAME

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts	Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
1	NST Monksstone	(J. Sadowski)	174	110	Friends 36	(R. Fyfe)	145	215	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	230	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
2	Nobby 20	(J. Brown)	168	111	AS	(K. Farhat)	145	216	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	231	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
3	Mean Machine	(G. Foster)	167	112	John Hunt Taunton G	(J. Hunt)	145	217	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	232	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
4	Sophie And Sam	(J. Brown)	166	113	Whitby	(G. Atkinson)	145	218	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	233	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
5	Hennings Berg Kick 1	(J. Brown)	165	114	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	219	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	234	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
6	Nobby 5	(J. Brown)	163	115	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	220	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	235	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
7	Plastic Filters 10	(J. Brown)	162	116	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	221	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	236	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
8	John Hunt Taunton D	(J. Brown)	162	117	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	222	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	237	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
9	Pin Ups	(J. Brown)	161	118	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	223	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	238	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
10	Nobby 34	(J. Brown)	161	119	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	224	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	239	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
11	Beyond Fault	(J. Brown)	161	120	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	225	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	240	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
12	Tulip's Tops	(J. Brown)	161	121	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	226	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	241	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
13	Caroline B	(J. Brown)	160	122	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	227	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	242	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
14	John Hunt Taunton F	(J. Brown)	160	123	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	228	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	243	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
15	Nobby 33	(J. Brown)	160	124	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	229	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	244	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
16	Ernest On Judas F	(J. Brown)	160	125	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	230	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	245	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
17	Spring City	(J. Brown)	159	126	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	231	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	246	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
18	Flying Foreigners	(J. Brown)	159	127	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	232	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	247	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
19	Le Bouef And 2 Veg	(J. Brown)	158	128	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	233	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	248	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
20	John Hunt Taunton H	(J. Brown)	158	129	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	234	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	249	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
21	John Hunt Taunton E	(J. Brown)	158	130	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	235	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142	250	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142
22	Best Of The Best	(J. Brown)	158	131	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	236	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
23	Thompson's XI	(J. Brown)	158	132	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	237	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
24	Thom Footery FC	(J. Brown)	158	133	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	238	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
25	Daggers	(J. Brown)	157	134	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	239	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
26	Sky Team III	(J. Brown)	157	135	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	240	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
27	Arrogant FC	(J. Brown)	157	136	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	241	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
28	Where's Ray Gone?	(J. Brown)	156	137	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	242	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
29	Nobby J	(J. Brown)	156	138	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	243	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
30	Skyforest	(J. Brown)	156	139	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	244	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
31	Polly's Pride	(J. Brown)	156	140	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	245	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
32	Alderslade Villa	(J. Brown)	156	141	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	246	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
33	4 4 2	(J. Brown)	156	142	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	247	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
34	Brain's Team	(J. Brown)	156	143	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	248	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
35	PJ Thistle	(J. Brown)	155	144	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	249	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
36	Seeston Celtic	(J. Brown)	155	145	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145	250	Shamrock Rovers	(M. Deery)	142				
37	Set Against Cys	(J. Brown)	154	146	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
38	Le Bouef And 2 Veg	(J. Brown)	154	147	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
39	West Wanderers	(J. Brown)	153	148	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
40	Noah's Ark	(J. Brown)	153	149	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
41	Glanville At Me	(J. Brown)	153	150	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
42	E	(J. Brown)	152	151	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
43	Hull Red Devils	(J. Brown)	152	152	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
44	AB 4	(J. Brown)	152	153	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
45	TWFC 1	(J. Brown)	152	154	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
46	Storm	(J. Brown)	152	155	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
47	Offit	(J. Brown)	152	156	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
48	1st Elft	(J. Brown)	151	157	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
49	Nobby 11	(J. Brown)	151	158	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
50	Gangsters	(J. Brown)	151	159	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
51	Infra Goal	(J. Brown)	151	160	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
52	Greene's Greats 1	(J. Brown)	151	161	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
53	Caroline D	(J. Brown)	151	162	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
54	Ginger	(J. Brown)	151	163	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
55	Unit Boys Utd 1	(J. Brown)	151	164	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
56	Middows	(J. Brown)	150	165	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
57	Plan B FC	(J. Brown)	150	166	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
58	T 20	(J. Brown)	150	167	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
59	Euro Paulo 1	(J. Brown)	150	168	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
60	Jaywalkers	(J. Brown)	150	169	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
61	Perfected Allstars	(J. Brown)	150	170	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
62	Nobby 7	(J. Brown)	149	171	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
63	Athletic Storm	(J. Brown)	149	172	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
64	The Foreign Legion	(J. Brown)	149	173	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
65	James Boys 8	(J. Brown)	149	174	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
66	Jerry's Skates	(J. Brown)	149	175	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
67	Sitting Ducks	(J. Brown)	149	176	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								
68	Tamechester Rovers	(J. Brown)	149	177	Whitby	(N. Armstrong)	145								

FIND OUT HOW YOUR TEAM IS DOING



Check your points total and your ranking. You need a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone) and your ten-digit selector's PIN. Calls made from public telephones may cost approximately twice as much.

Pos	Team	(Player's name)	Pts
64	Inter Jakes FC	(S. A. Jakes)	149
65	Barry's Team	(S. Matthews)	149
66	Dutch Courage	(R. van Ruitenbeek)	148
67	Nobby 14	(J. Brown)	148
68	Emma And Helen	(D. Lindsey)	148
69	It's About Revenge C	(R. Goh)	148
70	Fowler's Furrys	(S. Byrnes)	148
71	Woolston Wolves	(D. Garratt)	148
72	Champions Elect	(L. Spence)	148
73	Purple Rain	(G. Goh)	148
74	Foreign Legion	(K. Rowling)	148
75	Joe's Hotshots	(N. Howe)	148
76	Cool Side Burns	(M. Roper)	148
77	Essex Eagles 96 FC	(C. Jennings)	148
78	Ny's Best	(D. Tuffin)	147
79	Beyond Care	(P. Foster)	147
80	Down And Out	(J. Carruthers)	147
81	Scampi	(D. Callier)	147
82	Snappers United	(W. Gaylor)	147
83	Shooting Stars	(S. Scott)	147
84	Soccer Superstars	(J. McCallion)	147
85	Allen XI	(A. Djanli)	147
86	Natascha's Team	(N. Engel)	147
87	Rapid Vienna	(M. Forrest)	147
88	The Traveller	(S. Beavertier)	147
89	Rodent's Rovers	(M. Daniels)	147
90	Dolphin Stars	(D. Bowler)	147
91	First Eleven	(L. Sawley)	147
92	Lesley's Legmen	(L. Michaels)	146
93	Cholin Chik 69	(C. Scarle)	146
94	Former Champions	(M. Habin)	146
95	Hopeful Hotshots	(H. Rimmer)	146
96	Rodent's Raiders	(P. M. Handley)	146
97	Down's Destroyers	(R. McCullough)	146
98	Snolly Wollies XI	(A. Shabir)	146
99	Carless Whisper	(L. Geary)	146
100	Brainbrows United	(G. Wells)	146
101	Class 1	(R. J. Weston)	146
102	Odds-ITF Champ	(M. Sladden)	146
103	Flavio's Left Foot	(A. Ozzame)	146

ENTER TIMES ITF BY TELEPHONE — THERE ARE BIG PRIZES TO BE WON EVERY WEEK AND EVERY MONTH

The Manager of the Week and the Manager of the Month are up for grabs from now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a now until the end of the season. You could be a winner of either by entering a now until the end of the season.

The prize for the Manager of the Week is £250 cash, plus a £250 Sports Gift Voucher for an amateur football team in your community — as nominated by you. The Manager of the Month will receive £1,000 cash.

You can still be a big winner in ITF. To enter today, just follow the instructions below.

Enter ITF by phone on 0891 405 011

If telephoning from outside the United Kingdom, call 44 990 100 320

1. You must use a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a * and a hash key are Touch-tone).
2. Choose 1 goalkeeper, 2 full backs, 2 central defenders, 4 midfielders, 2 strikers and a manager.
3. Do not spend more than £35 million.
4. Do not choose more than two individuals (2 players or 1 player and 1 manager) from any one football club.
5. Once you have chosen your team, call the entry line, above, and follow these step-by-step instructions.

a) You must tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your 11 chosen players and your manager.

The ITF players, their points and their values if you are considering the transfer option

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
10101	M Watt	Aberdeen	1.50	0	-3	
10102	D Seaman	Aberdeen	1.00	0	0	
10202	V Bartram	Arsenal	5.00	0	+16	
10203	J Lukic	Arsenal	0.75	0	0	
10301	M Boanich	Aston Villa	3.50	0	0	
10302	M Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00	-7	+6	
10401	T Flowers	Blackburn	3.00	0	-10	
10402	S Given	Blackburn	2.00	0	0	
10501	G Marshall	Celtic	3.50	0	-3	
10601	D Kharine	Chelsea	2.50	0	+10	
10602	K Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00	0	-10	
10701	I Wright	Coventry City	1.50	0	-15	
10802	R Hout	Derby County	0.50	0	0	
10901	A Maxwell	Dundee United	1.00	0	-4	
10902	L Key	Dundee United	0.50	0	0	
11001	I Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50	0	-18	
11101	N Southall	Everton	2.50	0	0	
11102	J Garton	Everton	0.50	0	0	
11103	P Gerard	Everton	2.50	0	0	
11201	G Rousset	Harts	2.00	0	-16	
11301	J Leighton	Hibernian	1.50	0	-26	
11401	D Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+8	
11501	M Beeny	Leeds United	1.50	0	0	
11502	P Evans	Leeds United	0.25	0	0	
11601	N Marlyn	Leeds United	2.50	0	-10	
11602	K Poole	Leeds United	1.00	0	0	
11603	K Keller	Leeds United	1.00	0	-3	
11701	D James	Liverpool	5.00	0	+12	
11702	A Warner	Liverpool	0.50	0	0	
11801	P Schmeichel	Manchester Utd	5.00	0	+6	
11802	R van der Gouw	Manchester Utd	1.00	0	+5	
11901	G Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	0	
11902	A Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-14	
12001	S Howie	Motherwell	1.50	0	-3	
12101	S Hislop	Newcastle	4.00	0	-1	
12102	P Smeek	Newcastle	3.00	-5	-1	
12201	M Croasley	Nottm Forest	2.50	0	-12	
12202	A Fettes	Nottm Forest	0.75	0	0	
12203	T Wright	Nottm Forest	0.75	0	0	
12301	S Thomson	Rangers	5.00	0	-19	
12401	A Goran	Rangers	5.00	0	+16	
12501	K Pressman	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	0	
12601	D Beasant	Southampton	1.00	0	-10	
12602	N Moss	Southampton	0.25	0	+3	
12702	L Perez	Sunderland	0.50	0	0	
11803	A Cotton	Sunderland	1.00	0	+12	
12801	I Walker	Tottenham	3.50	0	+5	
12901	N Walsby	West Ham	1.00	0	-13	
12902	S Moutone	West Ham	0.50	0	0	
13001	N Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00	0	+10	
13002	P Head	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	



Billy Dodds, the Aberdeen forward, will be hoping to improve his ITF points tally after duty with Scotland

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
30305	R Scimeca	Aston Villa	1.00	0	0	
30401	C Hendry	Blackburn	4.00	0	-1	
30402	I Pearce	Blackburn	2.50	0	0	
30403	C Coleman	Blackburn	2.50	0	-3	
30404	N Marker	Blackburn	0.50	0	+4	
30501	T Boyd	Celtic	3.00	0	+2	
30502	M Mackay	Celtic	1.50	0	+3	
30503	A Stubbs	Celtic	3.50	0	0	
30601	M Daberry	Chelsea	2.50	0	-5	
30602	F Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.50	0	+21	
30603	F Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30604	D Lee	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
30605	A Myers	Chelsea	1.50	0	+7	
30606	E Johnson	Chelsea	1.50	0	+13	
30607	J Kjeldberg	Chelsea	0.50	0	0	
30701	L Delah	Coventry City	2.00	0	-3	
30702	R Shaw	Coventry City	1.50	0	-5	
30703	D Busst	Coventry City	1.00	0	0	
30801	I Stimac	Derby County	2.50	0	+1	
30803	J Laurson	Derby County	1.00	0	+5	
30804	M Carbon	Derby County	0.50	0	0	
30901	S Pressley	Dundee United	1.00	0	+1	
31001	M Miller	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+2	
31002	I den Bieman	Dunfermline	0.75	0	-3	
31101	D Unsworth	Everton	2.50	0	+7	
31102	D Watson	Everton	2.50	0	+1	
31103	C Short	Everton	2.00	0	+6	
31201	D McPherson	Harts	1.00	0	-2	
31202	P Ritchie	Harts	1.00	0	+1	
31301	J McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50	0	-4	
31302	G Hunter	Hibernian	0.75	0	+9	
31401	M Reilly	Hibernian	1.00	0	+5	
31402	R Montgomery	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	-3	
31501	D Wetherall	Leeds United	2.50	0	-1	
31502	R Johnson	Leeds United	1.00	0	0	
31503	L Radebe	Leeds United	1.00	0	-5	
31504	J Penberton	Leeds United	0.50	0	0	
31601	S Walsh	Leicester City	1.00	0	+5	
31602	I Walby	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
31603	P Kamark	Leicester City	0.50	0	0	
31604	S Prior	Leicester City	1.00	0	+4	
31701	P Babb	Liverpool	3.50	0	+15	
31702	J Scates	Liverpool	3.50	0	0	
31703	M Wright	Liverpool	3.50	0	+11	
31704	N Ruddock	Liverpool	3.00	0	0	
31705	D Gifford	Liverpool	0.50	0	-2	
31801	G Pallister	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	+9	
31802	D May	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	+10	
31803	R Johnson	Manchester Utd	2.50	0	+8	
31901	N Pearson	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-6	
31902	S Vickers	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-2	
31903	D Whyte	Middlesbrough	1.50	0	-1	
31904	P Whelan	Middlesbrough	0.75	0	-1	
32001	B Martin	Motherwell	1.50	0	+7	
32002	M van der Gaag	Motherwell	0.75	0	+11	
32101	P Albert	Newcastle	4.50	0	0	
32102	S Howe	Newcastle	3.00	0	+2	
32103	D Peacock	Newcastle	3.00	0	+7	
32201	C Cooper	Nottm Forest	3.00	0	0	
32202	S Chelcie	Nottm Forest	3.00	0	-2	
32301	S Dennis	Nottm Forest	1.00	0	-12	
32401	R Gough	Rangers	3.50	0	+20	
32402	A McLaren	Rangers	3.00	0	0	
32403	J Bjorlund	Rangers	3.50	0	+12	
32404	G Petric	Rangers	2.50	0	+4	
32501	J Newsome	Sheff Wed	2.00	0	0	
32502	D Walker	Sheff Wed	0.25	0	+1	
32503	B Lingham	Sheff Wed	0.25	0	0	
32601	K Monkou	Southampton	1.50	0	-3	
32602	A Nelson	Southampton	1.00	0	-3	
32603	R Dryden	Southampton	0.50	0	0	
32604	C Lundekvam	Southampton	0.50	0	+1	
32701	A Melville	Sunderland	1.00	0	+13	
32702	K Ball	Sunderland	1.50	0	+12	
32703	R Garde	Sunderland	0.50	0	+1	
32801	S Campbell	Tottenham	2.50	0	+9	
32802	C Calderwood	Tottenham	2.50	0	+8	
32803	G Mabbutt	Tottenham	2.00	0	0	
32804	J Cundy	Tottenham	0.50	0	0	
32805	K Scott	Tottenham	0.50	0	0	
32806	S Hinchcott	Tottenham	0.50	0	-3	
32901	S Bilic	West Ham	2.50	0	+2	
32902	M Rieper	West Ham	2.50	0	-1	
32903	S Potts	West Ham	2.00	0	-2	
32904	R Hall	West Ham	1.50	0	0	
32905	R Ferdinand	West Ham	0.50	0	0	
32906	A Whitbread	West Ham	0.25	0	0	
33001	A Reeves	Wimbledon	1.00	0	0	
33003	A Pearce	Wimbledon	0.75	0	0	
33004	D Blackwell	Wimbledon	0.50	0	0	
33005	B McAllister	Wimbledon	0.50	0	+13	
33006	S Fitzgerald	Wimbledon	0.25	0	0	

Code	Name	Team	Em	Pts	Wk	OV
40505	P di Camlo	Celtic	3.00	0	+9	
40601	R Gullit	Chelsea	3.50	0	0	
40602	D Wise	Chelsea	3.00	0	+10	
40603	G Peacock	Chelsea	2.50	0	0	
40604	C Burley	Chelsea	2.00	0	+10	
40605	E Newton	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40606	S Fiacchi	Chelsea	0.50	0	-2	
40608	R Di Matteo	Chelsea	3.00	0	+12	
40609	J Morris	Chelsea	2.00	0	0	
40701	J Salako	Coventry City	2.50	0	+11	
40702	G McAllister	Coventry City	5.50	0	+11	
40703	E Jess	Coventry City	2.00	0	+4	
40704	K Richardson	Coventry City	1.50	0	+5	
40705	P Williams	Coventry City	1.50	0	+2	
40706	M Isaias	Coventry City	0.50	0	0	
40707	W Boland	Coventry City	0.25	0	0	
40708	M O'Neill	Coventry City	1.50	0	+1	
40801	A Asanovic	Derby County	2.00	0	+10	
40802	P Simpson	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40803	R van der Laan	Derby County	1.50	0	+2	
40804	D Powell	Derby County	1.00	0	+6	
40805	S Flynn	Derby County	0.75	0	+3	
40806	G Rowett	Derby County	0.50	0	+7	
40807	C Dally	Derby County	1.50	0	+10	
40901	G McSwegan	Dundee United	2.00	0	+12	
40902	R Winters	Dundee United	1.50	0	+3	
40903	G Johnson	Dundee United	1.50	0	+3	
40904	G Bowman	Dundee United	0.75	0	+2	
41001	A Bennet	Dundee United	0.50	0	+2	
41002	H French	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+8	
41003	C Robertson	Dunfermline	1.00	0	+6	
41004	A Smith	Dunfermline	0.75	0	+9	
41005	D Fleming	Dunfermline	0.50	0	+8	
41101	A Kanchevski	Everton	7.00	0	+11	
41102	G Spens	Everton	4.00	0	+3	
41103	J Ebbell	Everton	1.50	0	+6	
41104	J Parkinson	Everton	1.50	0	+10	
41105	A Limpar	Everton	1.50	0	+1	
41106	A Grant	Everton	0.50	0	+3	
41107	V Samways	Everton	0.50	0	0	
41201	A McManus	Harts	1.50	0	+2	
41202	A McManus	Harts	1.50	0	+2	
41301	G Love	Hibernian	0.75	0	0	
41302	A Millen	Hibernian	0.50	0	+10	
41303	I Cameron	Hibernian	0.75	0	+1	
41401	A Mitchell	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+5	
41402	M McKeown	Kilmarnock	1.00	0	+5	
41403	M Skilling	Kilmarnock	0.75	0	0	
41404	J Lauchlan	Kilmarnock	0.50	0	+2	
41501	L Bowyer	Leeds United	3.00	0	+9	
41502	A Gray	Leeds United	2.50	0	+1	
41503	C Palmer	Leeds United	2.00	0	+4	
41504	R Wallace	Leeds United	1.50	0	+4	
41505	L Sharpe	Leeds United	1.50	0	+11	
41506	Harts	Leeds United	1.00	0	+13	
41507	M Ford	Leeds United	0.50	0	+6	
41508	A Couzens	Leeds United	0.50	0	+6	
41509	M Tinkler	Leeds United	0.50	0	+2	
41601	N Lennon	Leicester City	2.00	0	+8	
41602	G Parker	Leicester City	2.00	0	+1	
41603	S Taylor	Leicester City	2.00	0	+1	
41604	J Lawrence	Leicester City	0.25	0	0	
41605	M Izat	Leicester City	1.00	0	+9	
41701	S McManaman	Liverpool	7.00	0	+17	
41702	J McAtee	Liverpool	4.00	0	+9	
41703	J Redknapp	Liverpool	4.00	0	+1	
41704	J Barnes	Liverpool	3.00	0	+16	
41705	A Thompson	Liverpool	2.50	0	+15	
41706	M Kennedy	Liverpool	1.00	0	0	
41707	P Berger	Liverpool	3.00	0	+12	
41801	R Giggs	Manchester Utd	7.00	0	+10	
41802	R Keane	Manchester Utd	4.50	0	+3	
41803	D Beckham	Manchester Utd	4.00	0	+13	
41804	N Butt	Manchester Utd	3.50	0	+8	
41805	B McClair	Manchester Utd	3.00	0	+8	

